

# STOP SHELL HELL

In Co Mayo, Ireland

*From Nigeria to Ireland: Isolated small farmers in struggle to prevent Shell consortium from entering their lands, destroying the area and endangering their families.*

After five years running roughshod over local communities on the north west coast of Ireland, oil & gas giant Shell Corporation are poised to transform a remote conservation area of outstanding natural beauty into an environmental disaster zone with serious public health & safety implications. After a lengthy and dubious planning process, a dangerous on-shore pipeline and massive refinery has been approved that will poison the area, endanger residents and further add to climate change.

## **Solidarity actions/publicity in other areas welcome**

Due to compulsory acquisition orders Shell are free to access local people's lands to begin work. As the people of Mayo resist, the High Court has passed injunctions preventing them from protecting their homes and families. **On the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005, five Rossport residents were jailed indefinitely for contempt of court.** Shell finally lifted the injunction on 30<sup>th</sup> September, after 3 months of demonstrations across Ireland. Upon release, the 5 issued a press statement calling for their supporters to **“intensify the campaign for the safety of our community and families”**. Willie Corduff, jailed farmer & father of six said: **“We will do anything to save our land and our livelihoods, we are desperate and we are weary but we won't give up.”**

The Irish State has sold all interest in its gas fields for a song, removing its 50% state stake and introducing 100% tax write offs against development costs. The consortium includes Norwegian company Statoil. (Norway takes 78% of its gas/oil profits) and Marathon Oil (Texas, USA).

**“No other country in the world has given such favourable terms as Ireland...”**  
(Mike Cunningham, a former director at Statoil Exploration, Ireland)

## **Act Now! Help local people stop Shell**

Info: [www.indymedia.ie](http://www.indymedia.ie) - [www.shelltosea.com](http://www.shelltosea.com) – [www.corporatewatch.org](http://www.corporatewatch.org)  
UK Solidarity Campaign: [stops\\_hell@yahoo.com](mailto:stops_hell@yahoo.com)

**Pipeline:** Shell plans to construct an unprecedented and dangerous high pressure, raw gas pipeline from the Corrib gas field, 65 km off the beautiful, wild N.W coast of Ireland which will pass through villages and through the land of small farmers to a massive refinery to be constructed just 2 miles from the region's water source, Lake Carrowmore. At 5 times the usual pressure the pipeline will be built over unstable bog land with a history of landslides and also carry electrical cables, hydraulic fluids, cleansing acids and waste pipelines as well as odourless raw gas meaning leaks are undetectable.

**The Refinery will be** a large combustion plant, with nine chimneys, some 140 ft high, releasing carbon dioxide and methane. 16 houses are within 2km radius of the plant. Accidents, leaks and toxic releases could contaminate the whole environment with chemicals such as carbon & nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, methane and ozone. It will be constructed on unstable bog using previously untried methods to stabilise the bog surface and involve a massive amount of traffic. The wastewater storage sump design is inadequate for the regional rainfall and will overflow into Carrowmore Lake, source of the region's water supply, despite EU and UN protected status.

**Toxic Waste will be pumped into Broadhaven Bay** from the refinery, including lead, nickel, magnesium, phosphorous, chromium, arsenic, mercury and the radioactive gas radon. Due to the bay's circular tidal pattern much of this toxic waste will stay within the bay, rather than be washed out to sea, contaminating internationally important bird, whale, dolphin and fish habitats. Broadhaven Bay is a Special Area of Conservation under EU regulations and also provides livelihoods to local communities through fishing. In Shell's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) they omitted that the site was of importance to wildlife despite the findings of their own commissioned University College Cork (UCC) study which found that the Bay was a breeding and rearing area for whales and dolphins, recording over 220 sightings of seven whale and dolphin species, two seal species, basking sharks & a sea turtle

Shell are responsible for the site related health problems, spills, toxic releases and murder of local peoples around their plants in Nigeria, South Africa, Texas, Louisiana, The Philippines, Curacao, Brazil. Shell routinely attempt to build over active earthquake faults through endangered wildlife habitats and frequently falsify or underreport on their Environmental Impact Assessments. [www.shellfacts.com](http://www.shellfacts.com)