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**UPDATE: AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS DETAINED IN
NIGER DELTA**

SEATTLE, April 14, 2008 – The four Americans detained since Saturday and held in custody in the Nigerian capital of Abuja were seen Monday by a representative of the U.S. Embassy.

A representative of the Overseas Services, a division of the State Department, Aaron Hellman, says the four are in good health. Nigerian officials say the group was “detained for investigation” but no charges have been filed. The group maintains they have not violated Nigerian law. They are being held by Nigerian State Security in Abuja and have not been allowed to speak with legal representation.

The four, along with a Nigerian citizen, were taken into custody by the Nigerian military April 12th, while traveling by boat in the Niger Delta. The film crew has been actively documenting the region since 2005 and was known to authorities.

The Seattle-based group are filming Sweet Crude, a documentary about oil production in the Niger Delta. Director Sandy Cioffi, Tammi Sims, Cliff Worsham and Sean Porter entered the country legally on April 5th.

The four were accompanied by Joel Bisina, a Nigerian in custody with them. Bisina is the founder of a Warri-based NGO, Niger Delta Professionals for Development.

No communication has been received since Saturday April 12th, 8:30 am PDT. Family, friends and colleagues are making a plea for safety and immediate release.

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