

INVESTIGATION

Dick Cheney's Halliburton & Nigeria's missing millions

In this exclusive report, we examine how international companies and politicians ran Africa's biggest corruption scandal on the back of a \$6bn gas export project

Patrick Burns in Paris and Lucy Khamis in Abuja

U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney is embroiled in Africa's biggest corruption scandal following an admission of guilt by his former executive Alberto Fujimori. Cheney is suspected for oversteering over \$100m of bribes on behalf of a consortium led by Halliburton, the US's biggest and most profitable oil and gas services company.

According to documents obtained by The Africa Report as well as news stories, contracts, Halliburton and three other companies paid the bribes to win a contract to build a \$6bn liquefied natural gas (LNG) export project on Nigeria's coast (see also: [see the Nigeria LNG \(NLNG\)](#), one of Africa's biggest industrial projects and should be its own profile).

Nigeria investigators have discovered that this money has been funnelled to influential politicians through newspaper contracts and bribes linked to the project. And in August, Nigeria's House of Representatives passed evidence suggesting that the country could be losing billions of dollars through the underpricing of its gas exports. The government average cost market price for gas is about \$1 for a million British Thermal Units (MMBTU), with some companies paying as much as \$15 per MMBTU. We compiled a list of the individuals

companies involved in the gas project requested supply contracts for Nigeria to sell the gas at between 70 cents and \$1 per MMBTU.

Cheney's guilty plea to the US Department of Justice on 2 September states that many of the bribes on behalf of Halliburton were paid when Cheney was director and chairman of the company from 1995-2000, immediately prior to his election as Vice President of the US under George W. Bush. When asked about these payments in the 2004 election campaign, Cheney

The US State Department

has 100 pages that document the company's efforts to lobby Nigerian politicians and other Western businessmen to take contracts.

denied the allegation as "a misstatement" and said "the charges are false". Cheney has also admitted taking \$100,000 from the bribe fund for his personal benefit.

Cheney-Cheney also appointed Cheney as president of Halliburton's wholly-owned foreign arms & fire (HAF) subsidiary in 1996. "We took back Cheney to head up the organization and that has helped tremendously," Cheney said at the time.

