



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,107 Newsy Stuff

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DangerousGoods>

October 24 2014



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CHINA, HONG KONG, OCTOBER 10 2014. NEW TIMES ENERGY SELLS DOWNSTREAM GAS BUSINESS TO BLUE SKY POWER



New Times Energy sold its downstream natural gas business to Blue Sky Power Holdings for about \$36 million Wednesday. Both businesses are based in Hong Kong. The transaction will take place in two phases. Blue Sky will acquire a 51 percent share in Shine Great Investments, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of New Times Energy that holds the company's downstream natural gas assets, during the first phase. The company will acquire the remaining 49 percent during the second phase. Blue Sky will issue convertible bonds to Times worth \$27.4 million and pay about \$2 million in cash. The company will also pay about \$4.8 million cash for subscription consideration to Shine Great. Shine Great holds compressed natural gas and liquid natural gas stations as well as natural gas projects that supply industrial parks and residents in Jiangsu and Guizhou provinces. After the sale closes, the assets will be held by Goldlink Capital, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Blue Sky. The sale marks New Times' exit from the downstream business in China.

<http://petroglobalnews.com/2014/10/hong-kong-new-times-energy-sells-downstream-gas-business-to-blue-sky-power/>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, STANWELL, OCTOBER 10 2014. THREE DEAD IN HORROR CRASH WITH TANKER ON CAPRICORN HWY

tom snowdon

Three people are believed to have died in a horrendous traffic crash southwest of Rockhampton last night. Early details indicated an empty fuel tanker and four-wheel-drive wagon were involved in the incident along the Capricorn Highway, about 5km west of Stanwell, just after 7pm. The 4WD reportedly rolled several times, killing the three occupants - all of whom are believed to be male railway workers. The driver was a 21-year-old Gladstone man, while the two passengers were from Rockhampton and were aged 53 and 56. It is thought they were on their way to relieve colleagues at a nearby changeover. A local resident told The Courier-Mail the area of the highway was a trouble spot. "That corner is absolutely deadly," she said. "There are accidents here with trucks and other vehicles going off the road all the time. I've spoken with Main Roads about it before but they won't do anything." She said the highway was too narrow for vehicles to safely make a turn and the sides of the embankment were dangerously steep. Paramedics said the truck driver did not require medical treatment. Police have closed the highway in both directions and it is believed it will remain closed for quite some time. The tragedy brings the annual road toll to 177 deaths on Queensland roads this year, down from 219 the same time last year.

Related Stories

- [Aurizon Says it is a Black Day after Three Workers Killed](#)
- [Three Killed in 4WD Crash with Tanker on Queensland Highway](#)
- [Three Dead in Central Qld Crash](#)
- [Three Men Killed in Capricorn Hwy Crash](#)

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/three-dead-in-horror-crash-with-tanker-on-capricorn-highway/story-fnihsrf2-1227085706501>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, OCTOBER 10 2014. PREVENTING BARGE EXPLOSIONS

michelle howard

Recent casualties involving explosions aboard barges conducting tank cleaning operations alongside marine terminals have resulted in serious injuries to vessel crews and facility workers, catastrophic property damage, as well as harm to the environment. A review of related casualties has revealed that vessel personnel, facility personnel and shore side managers failed to ensure that established procedures and safe practices were followed. Specifically, the Operational Manuals and regulatory requirements were not routinely followed by those involved. As a result unintended and disastrous consequences occurred. This safety alert aims to raise awareness regarding this issue and highlight critical lessons learned from these incidents. Facility and vessel managers and operators, both ashore and afloat, responsible for the oversight of, or specifically involved in tank cleaning, stripping or gas freeing of flammable cargoes, should take note and ensure the widest distribution to all personnel. Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 154 - Facilities Transferring Oil or Hazardous Material in Bulk; requires facilities to submit for approval to the Captain of the Port (COTP), an Operations Manual that provides facility details, types of cargos handled, duties/knowledge requirements of specific personnel, locations of emergency shutdowns,



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descriptions of tank cleaning procedures, emergency procedures, and other requirements for each type of cargo evolution, tank cleaning, and vapor control processes. For facilities that conduct tank cleaning, stripping, or gas freeing operations on tank vessels, the Operations Manual must contain a description of their procedures that are consistent with the International Safety Guide for Oil Tankers and Terminals (ISGOTT). Specific sections of the Fifth edition are referenced in 33 CFR Part 154. The most common causal factor associated with these tank barge explosions is that the Person in Charge (PIC) of the facility and/or tank barge failed to follow key Operating Manual procedures. As a result of these casualties the Coast Guard strongly recommends that facility and vessel managers, operators and PIC's performing tank cleaning, stripping, or gas freeing of flammable cargos on board any vessel review ISGOTT Fifth edition and fully comply with all related regulations and Operating Manuals while also ensuring (among many other items):

- Operations Manual is complete and meets regulatory requirements.
- Facility personnel training programs meet regulatory requirements.
- Facility PIC is designated and properly trained.
- Barge PIC holds a required valid USCG Merchant Mariner's Credential with a Tankerman-PIC endorsement.
- Barge or vessel is properly grounded by a bonding wire or other approved method prior to transfer of cargo or slops.
- Spark producing tools and machinery are removed from the involved barge or vessel and immediate vicinity.
- Portable fans or blowers used to ventilate tanks are intrinsically safe and properly grounded.
- Minimizing the operation of other vessels near the facility during tank cleaning or gas freeing operations to reduce potential vapor ignition sources.
- Operating manual procedures for dropping / draining and cleaning of cargo lines and piping and tank cleaning are strictly followed.
- During tank cleaning (washing) and gas-freeing operations, consistent with ISGOTT Ch 11.3, conduct water flushing of the tank bottom and piping systems while monitoring the Lower Flammable Limit (LEL) prior to commencing forced ventilating.
- A Certified Marine Chemist certifies tanks as "Safe for Workers," "Safe for Hotwork" before personnel enter that tank or conduct hot work.

Facility and vessel operators may submit a written request for the COTP to consider alternative procedures, methods, or equipment standards than those established within the ISGOTT or regulations. The COTP will evaluate any proposed alternative to ensure it provides an equivalent level of safety and pollution protection as required by the regulations. This Safety Alert is provided for informational purposes only and does not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational or material requirement. It was developed by the U.S. Coast Guard Eighth District Prevention division in coordination with the Office of Investigations and Casualty Analysis, Washington DC.

<http://www.marinelink.com/news/preventing-explosions378713.aspx>

VENEZUELA, CARACAS, OCTOBER 11 2014. VENEZUELA ORDERED TO PAY EXXON \$1.6 BILLION FOR NATIONALIZATION

alexandra ulmer & corina pons



A World Bank arbitration tribunal on Thursday ordered Venezuela to pay Exxon Mobil Corp around \$1.6 billion to compensate for the 2007 nationalization of its oil projects in the country. The amount is far below the up to \$10 billion that Exxon had originally sought and the \$6 billion at which the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) capped the case, excluding a tax claim. "The Tribunal has found that the expropriation was conducted in accordance with due process, that it was not carried out contrary to undertakings given to the claimants in this respect and that the claimant have not established that the offers made by Venezuela were incompatible with the 'just' compensation requirement of (...) the Bilateral Investment Treaty," ICSID said on

its website. In a brief statement, Exxon said the decision vindicated its view that Venezuela failed to compensate it fairly at the time. Several analysts said Venezuela's socialist government had dodged a bullet with the award, although it was also not clear whether it would pay up or seek to annul the award. Venezuela withdrew from the ICSID in 2012. "The government is going to analyze whether to seek annulment or not," said Diego Moya-Ocampos of IHS risk consultancy. "Given Exxon originally wanted \$10 billion, this will likely be interpreted as a victory for the government. The government could offer Exxon



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the PDVSA refinery in Chalmette, Louisiana, which they operate together, as a form of payment." Experts think it is unlikely Venezuela would win an attempt to nullify the award, though such a move could buy the OPEC member some time and potentially allow for parallel negotiations over a possible settlement. Venezuela's state oil company PDVSA [PDVSA.UL] declined to comment and no one at the oil ministry was immediately available. A separate decision by another international arbitration body, the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) had ordered PDVSA to pay Exxon \$908 million. The ICSID award suggests avoidance of double payments, but does not directly mention the ICC award. Banking accounts PDVSA had used to pay previous awards had been frozen.

Delicate Finances

The decision comes at a delicate time for cash-strapped Venezuela, already struggling with an economy widely seen as in recession, rampant inflation and looming bond payments. "As a practical matter, I highly doubt Venezuela will comply with the ruling and pay the \$1.6 billion," said Pavel Molchanov, an oil company analyst with Raymond James. "While the current government of (Nicolas) Maduro is less antagonistic toward foreign investment than (late President Hugo) Chavez had been, the fact of the matter is it is still antagonistic. I would not be holding my breath for Exxon to receive a \$1.6 billion check from the Venezuelan treasury." The ICSID decision relates to the expropriation of the Cerro Negro project, the La Ceiba project, as well as "production and export curtailments" imposed on the Cerro Negro development in 2006 and 2007. Each party will cover its own costs and counsel fees, ICSID said. The tribunal said it had no jurisdiction over "the claim arising out of the increase in the income tax rate for the participants to the Cerro Negro Project." "The most important part of the decision is that the arbitration tribunal rejects the alleged "illegal" nature of the expropriation," said Carlos Bellorin, petroleum analyst at IHS, meaning the compensation only reflects the value of the assets, not alleged damages and prejudice caused. "However, it is presumed the calculation method was not the one Venezuela suggested," he said. Exxon's projects were taken over during the left-wing administration of Chavez, who led a wave of nationalizations that included the oil, electricity and steel industries. Many of the companies deemed the takeovers unlawful expropriations, and Venezuela is facing more than 20 cases arbitration cases over the nationalizations. ConocoPhillips brought the biggest case to date against Venezuela in 2007, seeking \$30 billion in compensation. A partial decision in 2013 determined Venezuela failed to act in good faith or properly compensate ConocoPhillips for three big oil assets. A final decision is expected soon. Proponents of the nationalizations argue commodities-rich Venezuela should have the right to administer its own resources to try to improve living standards.

Related Stories

- [Exxon Mobil Awarded \\$1.4 Billion in Venezuela Case](#)
- [Exxon Wins \\$1.6 Billion Settlement for Venezuela Seizure](#)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/09/us-venezuela-exxon-idUSKCN0HY20720141009>

USA, CA, EUREKA, OCTOBER 11 2014. TOXIC GAS LEAK AT EUREKA WASTEWATER PLANT CAPPED >> INCIDENT OCCURRED WHILE WORKERS WERE FIXING METERING DEVICE

will houston



Two Humboldt-Del Norte Hazmat officials suited up.

Local fire and Hazmat officials were able to quickly shut off a small toxic gas leak at the Eureka Wastewater Treatment Plant on Friday afternoon with no injuries or exposure reported, according to Humboldt Bay Fire Chief Ken Woods. "There's no more leak and there's no more hazard," Woods said at the scene. Humboldt Bay Fire received the first report around 3:30 p.m. of a sulfur dioxide leak at the plant located on the 4300 block of Hilfiker Lane. Three Humboldt Bay Fire incident command cars, two fire engines and one engine from the Humboldt/Del Norte Hazardous Materials Response Authority (Hazmat) responded. Though he described the leak as "very small," Woods said that the exposure of the gas poses an "inhalation and absorption risk" to human health. No one was injured during the incident. "No exposure of anyone," he

said. "The wind has been blowing out of the north so the fumes have been taken out away from town and over the bay." Sulfur dioxide is a toxic gas released from both man-made and natural sources and is a component in acid rain. Treatment plant employee Justin Boyes said the gas is used as part of the wastewater treatment process. "We have two gases here," he said. "We have chlorine and sulfur dioxide. The chlorine is used for disinfection of bacteria in the wastewater, and we can't send out chlorinated water when we send out our effluent so the sulfur dioxide is used to neutralize the chlorine before the water goes



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out." The leak started while two employees were working on a metering device on a 1-ton gas cylinder at the plant, Woods said. The leak went on for a "few minutes" before the first responders put on a temporary gasket to seal it. Around 4 p.m., two Hazmat officials suited up and entered the site and were able to place a new gasket on the cylinder in about 10 minutes time without incident. "They changed the gasket to make sure they got the right one on there," Woods said. "We're going to have a chlorine cylinder company come out and take the cylinder back." As to the cause of the leak, Woods said he did not know.

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_26706588/toxic-gas-leak-at-eureka-wastewater-plant-capped

USA, ILL, PERRY CO, OCTOBER 11 2014. RAIL CARS VENTING CHLORINE PULLED TO SAFE ZONE NEAR TAMAROA



First responders at train scene.

A Jackson County sheriff's deputy on patrol near DeSoto alerted Du Quoin firefighters at noon Thursday about a northbound Canadian National freight train that was pulling several chlorine tank cars that were either leaking or venting chlorine gas. First responders alerted the railroad. Instead of stopping the train in Du Quoin, the railroad radioed the engineer and told him to take the train through Du Quoin and stop it north of Rt. 154 at Pintail Road south of Tamaroa. The train was met by Perry County Sheriff Keith Kellerman and deputies, Du Quoin and Tamaroa firefighters and emergency services director David Searby and ESDA responders. Railroad personnel rolled up and told those at the scene they felt the six chlorine cars were empty. Yet, the strong chlorine smell was everywhere. With no imminent danger it was decided to let the train continue

north to the repair yard at Centralia. For a time, Division Street near the fire station in Du Quoin was blocked off as HazMat trucks arrived and set up a staging area alongside the fire house.

<http://www.duquoin.com/article/20141010/NEWS/141009210/10054/NEWS>

THE BAHAMAS, CLIFTON PIER, OCTOBER 11 2014. ALBANY CLIENTS HIT BY 'HORRIFIC' OIL SPILLS

neil hartnell

Albany's marina chief yesterday said he was "hoping and praying" the Government would finally take concrete action over persistent oil spills at Clifton Pier, as there had been several "horrific" incidents witnessed by the development's high-end guests. Derek Roderick, the southwestern New Providence project's harbourmaster, told Tribune Business that its marina had been impacted "nine to 12 times" by oil pollution since it opened in October 2010. While describing just three incidents as "really bad", Mr Roderick revealed that one - which occurred on March 10/11 last year, had left some of Albany's multi-million dollar yacht clientele "freaking out". Both they and Albany marina staff had to watch helplessly as thick oily sludge, mixed with bilge and other fuel-related pollution, covered docks and slips that, in some cases, had cost clients up to \$3 million. Multi-million dollar yachts saw their hulls covered with oil, and Mr Roderick said the fumes given off were so "horrendous" that many persons had to vacate the deck and seek refuge inside. He added that it cost Albany's marina "thousands of dollars" to hire an overseas company to scrub the marina and boats clean, an operation that took seven to nine months to complete. Mr Roderick's comments, given to Tribune Business via phone and e-mail, emphasise how persistent oil pollution is not the image the Bahamas wants to be portraying, especially when it is impacting the high net worth client base the Government is so keen to attract to these shores. "I run the number one marina in this country as well as the surrounding regions," Mr Roderick told Tribune Business via e-mail. "How am I to explain the blatant disregard for our beautiful waters, environment and eco-system by our government to the highest end, most professional clientele in the world?" Mr Roderick said that while the most recent oil spill had impacted Albany, this was because the marina - learning quickly from past experience - had deployed its 300-foot containment boom across the channel entrance. "However, in the past years, several times the seepage from the slick has made its way into my basin, affecting/staining my floating docks, seawalls, the hulls of yachts worth hundreds of million dollars, not to mention the dangerous and nauseating fumes, discomforting and concerning my guests and owners," Mr Roderick told Tribune Business. "In the end, it cost my operation thousands of dollars in clean up fees from an offsite company." The Government will likely be unable to ignore the oil pollution at Clifton any longer, given the clout and influence Albany - and its principals - have by virtue of their \$1 billion-plus investment. The chief investors behind Albany are Lyford Cay-based billionaire Joe Lewis, and his world-renowned professional golfing partners, Tiger Woods and Ernie Els. And, more importantly, the incidents at Albany have the potential to damage the Bahamas' reputation as an investment-friendly



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destination, plus its tourism and environmental standing. It will be even more damaging if it starts to circulate in high net worth investor circles, the clients vital to the Bahamas' economic future when it comes to foreign direct investment (FDI), second home market and financial services. Speaking to Tribune Business via phone, Mr Roderick said: "It's [oil spills] happened nine to 12 times since we opened up in October 2010. It's not been bad every time; three times' it's been really bad." Suggesting that the problem was becoming worse, not better, he added that the March 10/11 episode last year "was one of the worst", and coincided with when the Albany marina was full with home-based and visiting yachts. "The smell was horrendous," he recalled. "Clients were looking at me and just freaking out. We have the heaviest hitters in the country down here. "It was horrific. It's a huge problem, and I'm hoping and praying it gets a lot more traction. It's a disaster. It's nothing new and has been gone on for decades. 'They [the Government] have to do something. You can't turn your head away when everyone's talking about it, especially at a \$1 billion project.'" Tribune Business understands that Albany executives were in immediate contact with Government and Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) officials following the March 2013 oil spills. And sources familiar with developments told this newspaper that a US firm, NRCC, had developed a plan to deal with Clifton Pier's oil pollution issues from two years ago. This, Tribune Business understands, would have addressed the sludge left by deep well injections; remediation via injections into the limestone; stoppage of leakage and better tankage/storage; and the removal of the waste oil/sludge from the Bahamas for treatment elsewhere. All this raises questions about why successive governments have failed to take action sooner. Kenred Dorsett, minister of the environment, earlier this week said the Government had contracted another US firm, Coatal Systems International, to deal with the oil pollution situation at Clifton Pier. Mr Roderick's comments back those by Stuart Cove, principal of Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas, who warned earlier this week that the latest Clifton oil spill could leave the Bahamas with "a real black eye" internationally, having potentially cost his business "tens of thousands of dollars" in damages. He expressed concern that the spill could become "an international incident" that harms the Bahamas' tourism reputation, after some 300 persons witnessed its effects on his business. Describing oil spills, and their effects, off southwestern New Providence as a decades-old issue, Mr Cove revealed that "two dozen dive sites" - including the world-renowned 'James Bond' wreck - were frequently rendered off limits when the wind came from the east. This occurred "most of the time", threatening an industry - and key site - that studies have shown helps to inject millions into the Bahamian economy annually.

<http://www.tribune242.com/news/2014/oct/10/albany-clients-hit-by-horrific-oil-spills/>

CANADA, SASK, PRUDHOMME, OCTOBER 12 2014. EXPLOSION AT SASK. GAS FACILITY PROMPTS EVACUATION

 **Watch the Video:** [Explosion at Sask. Gas Facility Prompts Evacuation](#)

 **Watch the Video:** [CTV News Channel: Surrounding area evacuated](#)

 **Watch the Video:** [CTV News Channel: Explosion in Saskatchewan](#)



An explosion and fire at a gas pumping station near Prud'homme, Sask. on Saturday prompted an evacuation.

An explosion and fire at a gas pumping station in Saskatchewan on Saturday prompted an evacuation. RCMP said the blast occurred at a TransGas facility near this small community, northeast of Saskatoon. Police say there have been no injuries reported. The area around the facility that was being evacuated is just over three kilometres. TransGas is a subsidiary of Crown-owned SaskEnergy, and company spokesman Dave Burdeniuk said several buildings at the site were damaged but there were no employees there when the incident happened. Burdeniuk said automated equipment shut the facility down and vented off any remaining natural gas that was in the pipes, which he said isn't toxic. The fire, however, continues to burn at the wellhead for an underground storage cavern. "I don't know what kind of resources at this point we're going to mobilize yet to get the fire out. Right now, we need to keep any flames from spreading and that's what we're doing with the first-responders that are on-scene with us at this point," Burdeniuk said. RCMP couldn't immediately say how many people were affected by the evacuation, but said it's a rural area and that no major highways or roads are affected. They say they've barricaded roads leading to the site to keep people away. Burdeniuk said it appears the flames were sparked when there was a release of gas at the wellhead from one of seven underground caverns at the site. The caverns, he explained, are used to store natural gas for the winter when demand for heating is greater. The caverns are about a kilometre-and-a-half down and are carved with water in underground salt deposits. Each cavern is about as tall as a 12-storey office building. Burdeniuk was unsure about whether there was a risk of the gas igniting underground. "We don't know what might happen but it should just burn at the



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wellhead. That's usually how these things happen when they do occur," he said. Burdeniuk said the facility would normally be staffed during a weekday, but was designed to be automated on evenings and weekends when demand for natural gas is low. When extremely low temperatures occur, however, he said a staff member sleeps at the site to make sure everything goes smoothly. "We work very hard on maintenance at these facilities and they are designed to operate in all conditions in Saskatchewan. It's too early to say what happened and how this occurred," he said. "We've been operating these facilities since the mid-1960s and have never had a serious injury out at a facility. And incidents like this are rare." No customers have lost service, he said.

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/explosion-at-sask-gas-facility-prompts-evacuation-1.2050256>

USA, OH, GREENE CO, SILVERCREEK TWP, OCTOBER 12 2014. CAMPGROUND EXPLOSION BURNS BOY, 2 MEN >> . INITIAL REPORTS INDICATE GASOLINE WAS BEING POURED

Update @ 6:42 p.m. (Oct. 11, 2014):

The state fire marshal's investigator was on scene today at the Old U.S. 35 Campground following an accidental explosion in a garage near a trailer that sent a young boy and two men to the hospital with severe burns. The 2-year-old boy was airlifted to Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, where he remains in critical condition. The boy's father, who suffered burns to more than 40 percent of his body, also is in critical condition, according to the state fire marshal's office. The other man who was injured was a neighbor, said Keith Deskins, assistant chief of the Silvercreek Fire Department. All three people were residents in a mobile home community that was in a year-round part of the campground off Old U.S. 35, he said. The incident remains under investigation, though the state fire marshal's office is calling the blast accidental.

Update @ 9:45 p.m. (Oct. 10, 2014):

A state fire marshal's investigator will be at the Old U.S. 35 Campground on Saturday, trying to determine what led to what is being called "an accidental explosion" in or near a trailer that sent a boy and two men to hospitals suffering from severe burns. Asst. Chief Keith Deskins, Silvercreek Twp. fire in Jamestown, said one "very young" child suffered burns over more than 80 percent to his body, one of the men suffered burns to more than 40 percent of his body, and the other male had burns to about 10 percent of his body. The child was taken to Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, he said, and the men were taken to Miami Valley Hospital. The child and one of the men were said to be in critical condition and the other man was not believed to be in critical condition, the assistant chief said. Deskins said that because the investigation is ongoing, he could not share any details of his department's investigation about what may have led to the incident. He would say that the incident is being investigated as "an accidental explosion." He also could not state where the victims are from or give their approximate ages. The victims were alone in the trailer, he said. Deskins was able to state that the incident was confined to one lot on the campground, which will remain cordoned off until the investigation is completed. The rest of the campground remained open Friday night, he said.

First Report (Oct. 10, 2014):

CareFlight was called tonight to an accident in which three people, including a child, who suffered severe burns. The incident happened shortly before 8 p.m. at the Old U.S. 35 Campground, 6261 Old U.S. 35 E, located east of Jamestown and not far from Interstate 71. Initial reports indicate gasoline was being poured into a motorcycle tank when it caught fire, possibly the result of an explosion. We will update this report as we learn additional details.

<http://www.whio.com/news/news/local/careflight-called-burn-victims/nhgFX/>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, OCTOBER 12 2014. CALTEX LYTTON REFINERY CONFIRMS MORE THAN 100 JOBS WILL BE AXED BY THE END OF 2015

brayden heslehurst



The Caltex Lytton Refinery

Caltex Lytton Refinery has confirmed more than 100 jobs will be axed by the end of 2015 to keep the business competitive. In August the company said it had been discussing with Lytton employees and contractors a new operational structure to ensure the refinery's long-term success. But refinery manager Vusan Subanake told a staff during a meeting on Thursday that up to 40 employees, along with 30 per cent of contractors, would be cut. "The refining business is very competitive and we look at our business performance and competitiveness," Mr Subanake said. "And at the same time look at productivity



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efficiency." "We look at how we can do the same thing with less cost. We look at what other refineries are doing in Singapore and Thailand and we learn things from them." About 350 employees and more than 200 contractors currently work at the refinery. "The business as we look at it today is not enough to make us competitive. So then we talk about structure and the number of people, then we have to make changes," he said. Mr Subanake said the refinery staff would undergo an interview process and some jobs to be cut this year. He expects all the changes to be complete by the end of 2015.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/questnews/east/caltex-lytton-refinery-confirms-more-than-100-jobs-will-be-axed-by-the-end-of-2015/story-fni9r0lo-1227086161012>

USA, CO, STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, OCTOBER 12 2014. WOMAN DIES IN FIERY CRASH WITH TANKER TRUCK

A woman is dead after an SUV she was driving hit a tanker truck and caught fire on Rabbit Ears Pass. The Colorado State Patrol says it was responding to reports of a drunk driver when the crash occurred on Friday. Troopers identified the woman who died in the crash as Debra Emal, 61, of Fraser. According to Steamboat Today, a trooper tried to put out the fire with a fire extinguisher, but was unable to get close to the burning vehicle. The driver of the tanker truck, Mark Bills, of Parker, was not injured.

<http://www.9news.com/story/news/2014/10/11/woman-dies-in-fiery-crash-with-tanker-truck/17106593/>

ENGLAND, ISLE OF WIGHT, COWES, OCTOBER 12 2014. DRUNK HOVERCRAFT PILOT RICHARD PEASE JAILED AFTER NEAR MISS WITH TANKER BETWEEN RYDE AND SOUTHSEA



A Hovertravel vessel.

A hovercraft pilot has been jailed for eight months for being in charge of his passenger vessel while being at least three times over the drink-drive limit causing it to have near misses with a tanker and a busy pier before missing its landing pad. Richard Pease, of Cowes, Isle of Wight, pleaded guilty at a previous hearing to a charge of being master of a hovercraft having consumed excess alcohol under the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003. The court heard that Pease collapsed at the controls as he failed to steer the craft on to its landing pad at Ryde. Sunyana Sharma, prosecuting, told Isle of Wight Crown Court that the 50-year-old gave a breath test six hours after the incident on June 22 this year which gave a reading of 96mg of alcohol in 100 ml of breath - the drink-drive limit is 35mg. The defendant, who has 18 years' experience as a hovercraft pilot, told police that he had been drinking from a bottle which he had

not realised contained alcohol in a bid to keep cool and hydrated in the hot cabin during two journeys which carried a total of more than 130 people. Sentencing Pease, Judge Susan Evans QC said: "It's tragic that someone of your standing and with such an impressive past career should have destroyed all of that in one day. "It was an appalling breach of your duty. You put yourself in a condition where you were unable to discharge your duty as pilot of a hovercraft and your responsibilities to your passengers, the crew and the other users of the Solent. "Your actions could have resulted in tragedy but fortunately they did not." Miss Sharma described how Pease had driven the Hovertravel craft Freedom 90 from Ryde to Southsea, with 95 passengers on board when it failed to reach the landing pad. He then piloted the same craft back across the Solent with 36 passengers on board when his assistant, handling agent John Randles, realised that Pease had slowed down in the path of a tanker heading towards [Southampton](#). Mr Sharma said: "What is normal procedure, if safe to do so, the hovercraft will cross in front of the tanker and not reduce the speed. "It was noted the defendant did reduce his speed when coming across the front of the tanker, as a result of that observation, he (Mr Randles) asked the defendant if he had noticed the tanker to which he replied 'Yes'. "At that point the defendant increased his speed and he averted a potential incident." Miss Sharma then described how Pease started to lose control of the craft as it arrived at Ryde, missing the landing pad and headed towards Ryde Pier. She said that Pease collapsed at the controls and Mr Randles had to take urgent action to take control of the craft. Miss Sharma said: "As he was making the approach he failed to take the normal position on the landing pad so the craft would be landed safely. "Ryde Pier is a traditional wooden pier, it carries a passenger train and vehicles and during summer it's very, very busy. "As the landing was being made, Mr Randles asked the defendant if he was ok, to which the defendant replied that he was. "The handling agent pointed out to the defendant he wasn't in line with pad as he was supposed to be. The defendant slightly adjusted the control but as he went to take control of the throttle, it appeared his hand slipped, he missed the control and he went to reach for it again. "Unfortunately the adjustment made wasn't enough and the hovercraft was heading towards



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the pier rather than towards the pad. "Once again the defendant was asked if he was ok, at that point there was no positive response. "Upon a further question being asked, it was noticed the defendant had drooped and he had gone limp in the chair. "As there was no response from the defendant, Mr Randles took immediate action and taking control of the hovercraft he landed it safely." The court was shown CCTV footage showing the hovercraft weaving as it arrived at Ryde and coming to a halt as it headed in the wrong direction away from the landing pad and towards Ryde Pier. The court was told it was at this point that Mr Randles took over the controls and brought it to safety before another pilot came on board to bring it to the landing pad. Pease was taken to hospital by paramedics who noticed his speech was slurred and he was having "alcohol sweats" and six hours after the crossing, he gave the positive breath test. Judge Evans said: "Common sense says he didn't drink anything in the hospital and he must have been significantly more affected when he left the craft." Describing Pease's actions as a "grave dereliction of duty", Miss Sharma added: "It's perhaps fortunate there was no serious injury or death from this incident." Neil Fitzgibbon, defending, said that Pease, a married father of two teenage sons, was of impeccable character and with 14,000 hours in charge of a hovercraft, he was Hovertravel's most experienced pilot. He described how his client had been operating the hovercraft that day in hot conditions in the cabin and had felt unwell and dehydrated. In his lunchbreak at the pilots' mess in Ryde, he had found an opened bottle of water and had poured orange squash into it to drink when he went back on board to keep himself hydrated, Mr Fitzgibbon said. He continued: "The bottle is in the pilot's mess, it's not unusual for bottles and lost property to make its way into the pilots' mess room. He took the bottle on board. "The [Isle of Wight Festival](#) had only finished a week previously, how it found its way into the mess is not known. "He was consuming something he didn't know what it was, he should have been aware of what had been consumed. "Mr Pease is as shocked and surprised as anyone that he was over the limit and secondly by so much." The court heard that the defendant accepted that once he realised the bottle contained alcohol, he continued to drink from it. He added: "He had in the past sought help for dependency on alcohol when he was a much younger man in the Merchant Navy but I understand he had come to terms with that many years ago." Mr Fitzgibbon continued: "The effect of what happened that day has brought about a severe bout of depression. He is a man consumed with remorse for what happened." After the hearing, Miss Sharma confirmed that the sentence did not prohibit him from getting behind the wheel of a car. Neil Cunningham, Maritime and Coastguard Agency Enforcement Officer, said: "The master of any vessel has a duty of care to their crew and passengers, so to carry out this responsibility whilst under the influence of alcohol is totally irresponsible. Mr Pease was clearly not in any fit state to carry out his duties safely. It is incredibly fortunate that no-one was hurt in this case. "I would like to take this opportunity to praise the quick thinking of a crew member on board the Hovercraft Freedom 90 for safely bringing the craft to a stop in Ryde and also to thank Hovertravel for its cooperation and assistance throughout this investigation."

http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/11528853.Drunk_hovercraft_pilot_jailed_after_near_miss_with_tanker/

ENGLAND, ESSEX, ROCHFORD, OCTOBER 13 2014. MAJOR FIRE IN PURDEYS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE INVOLVING DIESEL TANK CAUSES EXCLUSION ZONE

helen barnett



Major fire involving diesel tank causes exclusion zone.

A business has been completely destroyed by a fire which caused gas cylinders to explode and residents to be evacuated. Seven crews spent more than six hours tackling the blaze which started at 3.30am this morning in the warehouse unit at Purdeys Industrial Estate, in Rochehall Lane, [Rochford](#). The fire involved a diesel tank, LPG cylinders and an acetylene cylinder, some of which exploded when crews arrived on site. They set up a 200m exclusion zone around the unit and had to evacuate residents from their houseboats on the river Roach. Crews used three ground monitors to control the blaze and protect surrounding risks, including a ruptured diesel tank which has spilled fuel. Assistant divisional officer

Paul Chipperfield, incident commander, said: "On arrival crews were faced with a well developed fire with explosions being caused by cylinders inside the building. They immediately put monitors down and withdrew to a safe distance. "Their swift action in getting monitors on the fire meant that we were able to contain the blaze to the unit it started in and prevent it from spreading. It is thanks to the fantastic job these crews did when they first arrived that we were able to contain this fire to the unit it started in." Crews from Southend and Hawkwell were joined by another Southend crew plus engines from [Leigh](#), [Rayleigh](#) Weir and Orsett, as well as a hose layer from Rayleigh Weir and Chelmsford's water bowser. The fire was extinguished just after 9.45am and left the scene at 11am. But they returned this afternoon to begin an investigation to



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establish the cause of the blaze. Divisional officer Mark Earwicker said: "The fire was in a workshop used to maintain vehicles and involved a number of cylinders and barrels of oil which led to the blaze quickly escalating in the way it did. One of the cylinders involved was an acetylene cylinder. Once these are heated a chemical reaction starts within the cylinder which can lead to an explosion. This explosion can send shrapnel flying over 200 metres, so we put a hazard zone in place. "The cylinder is tested at regular intervals to see if it has cooled. Once we are certain it has cooled and is no longer a hazard then we remove the hazard zone. This happened at around 08:30hrs this morning." The exclusion zone has been removed and residents have been allowed to return to their houseboats.

<http://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/11529700.UPDATE> Major fire involving diesel tank causes exclusion zone/

CANADA, ONT, TORONTO, OCTOBER 13 2014. PORT LANDS INDUSTRIAL AREA EVACUATED DUE TO OIL REFINERY FIRE



Smoke billows from a fire at an oil refinery in the Port Lands area of Toronto on Oct. 12, 2014.

Crews evacuated an area of the Port Lands due to a fire at an oil refinery early Sunday morning. It happened at Quantex Technologies on Cherry Street, near Commissioners. There were fears harmful chemicals might have caught fire and the surrounding area was cleared as a precaution. Hazmat units were called in and the fire was deemed not to be hazardous.

<http://www.citynews.ca/2014/10/12/port-lands-industrial-area-evacuated-due-to-oil-refinery-fire/>

MALAYSIA, KUALA LUMPUR, OCTOBER 13 2014. SELANGOR MB CRACKS WHIP AFTER DIESEL POLLUTES KLANG VALLEY WATER SUPPLY



Tankers will be mobilised to affected areas in the Klang Valley and Shah Alam following the closure of three water treatment plants.

Selangor Menteri Besar Azmin Ali sprinted into action today, calling for an emergency meeting with water distribution firms and local councils after a diesel spill at three water treatment plants yesterday disrupted water supply to thousands of households throughout the Klang Valley. The pollution cut off supply to seven areas in the country's most-populated region as the three treatment plants provide for roughly 60 per cent of the Klang Valley's drinkable water supply. "I want stern action to be taken against those responsible for the diesel contamination at the affected treatment plants," Azmin said in Malay on his Facebook page earlier today as he ordered Selangor state secretary and water authorities Syabas and Luas to track down the culprits. "Please tweet immediately if there are any areas that face any water supply disruption. I will be

monitoring it myself and will deal with Syabas," Azmin added. The seven affected areas are Gombak, Klang-Shah Alam, Petaling, Kuala Lumpur, Hulu Langat, Kuala Langat and Kuala Selangor. State news agency Bernama reported today the valley's main supplier, Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas), has temporarily closed operations at the three water treatment plants since 8pm yesterday after hydraulic fluid was found in Sungai Selangor. "Due to the loss of production last night which amounts to 1,350 million litres per day (mld), recovery for the affected areas will take a few days. Tankers will be mobilised to the affected areas until the water supply resumes," Syabas corporate communications and public affairs general manager, Priscilla Alfred Dharan said in a statement. "Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (Luas) is investigating the source of contamination," she added. In a statement posted on its website, Luas said it received information of an oil residue detected on the water surface of the Selangor river last night, forcing the shutdown of Supply Scheme Phase 3 (SSP3) at 8pm, followed by SSP1 and SSP2 at 8.30pm and the Rantau Panjang plant at 10.25pm. The situation prompted the Selangor State Water Resource Pollution Emergency Committee (JKPSA) to dispatch a team to the area and samples were taken by Syarikat



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Pengeluar Air Sungai Selangor Sdn Bhd (Splash) for analysis. Luas stressed that it is working closely with Splash, Puncak Niaga Sdn Bhd (PNBSB) and the Selangor Environmental Department (JAS) to find the source of the diesel spill and bring those responsible to book.

<http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/selangor-mb-cracks-whip-after-diesel-pollutes-klang-valley-water-supply>

NIGERIA, IBADAN, MOLETE, 'OCTOBER 13 2014. IBADAN TANKER EXPLOSION: GOD, I'M IN PAINS —VICTIM •MAN LOSES WIFE, 3 CHILDREN •11 DIE, 16 SUSTAIN SEVERE BURNS •45 SHOPS, 15 CARS, 12 MOTORCYCLES, 6 TRICYCLES DESTROYED

sade oguntola, kehinde oyetimi, adewale oshodi, saheed salawu, seyi sokoya, vera onana and wale akinselure



The spot where the tanker fell and exploded at Molete roundabout, Ibadan. PHOTOS: TOMMY ADEGBITE AND SEYI SOKOYA

The dead are still being mourned; those who seem to have survived are painfully hanging on with varying degrees of burns. The growing number of the bereaved is disturbing as no fewer than eleven people have been confirmed dead following, in Saturday night's petrol tanker explosion at Molete, Ibadan, while 16 others, including Mr Samson Oyewo, a staff of the Nigerian Tribune, are currently under intensive care at the University College Hospital, Ibadan Central Hospital and Immaculate Hospital, Ibadan. A visit to the morgue of the State Hospital, Ring Road, Adeoyo, by the Nigerian Tribune, revealed that 10 corpses had been deposited there. The morgue attendant, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, stated that "We got 10 corpses which included children and adults." The raging inferno which spread from Molete round about to Bode area of Ibadan lasted from about 8 pm Saturday night till about 3am, on Sunday,

breezed past Prolek filling station before concerted efforts of the Oyo State Fire Service and well-meaning individuals could quench the inferno. Nigerian Tribune was informed that this incident would be the 5th occurrence in the Molete area having recorded same in August 1971, September 1975, April 1987 and the penultimate in 1994. Mr Eze Emmanuel, whose chemist shop was burnt recounted, "I just went to park my car and all I heard was a loud sound and fire ensued. It spread to my shop and even one of my customers who came to purchase something was burnt. My younger brother escaped through the back door, while the customer he sold something to was burnt. As at September when I took stock, it amounted to N4.3million." One of the affected traders, Mrs Alarape Sulaimon, expressed sadness at the loss of her wares running into thousands that she sold to make a living.

"My Sister and her three Children are Dead"

A sad Olujimi Olusegun told the story of how he got the news of the death of his sister and her children. According to him, "What happened remains a sad occurrence to me. I got a call this morning from an old time friend. But I ignored the call. Later, my younger brother called me, telling me that my sister's husband was involved in an accident in Molete. After that, my father called and informed me that my elder sister was dead. She was 32 years old. She gave birth to three children. All her children were burnt to death. Her husband who survived is being treated at the hospital."

All My Tools, Car have been Burnt—Panel Beater

For Quadri Lawal, a panel beater, his means of livelihood perished in the inferno. "We were called in the morning that Molete was on fire. When we got here, we discovered that all our shops have been burnt. My tools have been destroyed. We could not recover anything. My car also got burnt. Some of the cars that were kept in our custody also got burnt. We cried like babies," he said.

"I lost my entire shop"

I am Olawale Osokomaya. I am a battery charger. I was called this morning that my shop had been destroyed by fire. There is nothing left for us. The governor should please come to our aid. This is terrible. Where do we start from? Some houses were affected.

"My brother is Unconscious; he was Seriously Burnt"

Oluwafemi Adesina told Nigerian Tribune of the pains his younger brother, Ayomipo Adesina, admitted at the Ibadan Central Hospital, is going through. "He was burnt and presently unconscious. I feel so sad. He is married. I was called from Ogun State after which I rushed down here. I was told that we will pay N30, 000 every week and purchase N15,000 worth of drugs each week. He will be here for another four weeks. We are looking for the money. We need all the support that we can get," he said.



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“My Two Daughters got Burnt”

An obviously sad Mrs Godwin wept when she spoke of the precarious condition in which her two daughters were in. “I had gone out to purchase some tubers of yam at Molete. While I was waiting with my two daughters, we heard an explosion. We saw fire. People started running. I joined in the race. I had forgotten my children. I got injured. Before I realized what was happening, I could not find any of them. It was later I saw one of them who was already burnt. Some people took the other away. It was this morning that I was told that one of them, Happiness Godwin, had been admitted at Ibadan Central Hospital. The other one, Precious Godwin, is at the University College Hospital, (UCH),” she said.

God! I’m in Pain—Severely Burnt Victim

Adeyeye Saheed, who was severely burnt, could not hold back his tears as he cried, begging God for relief. “God! I’m in pain. It happened so suddenly. I wanted to buy something at the market. Before I knew what was happening, I had an explosion. Things happened so fast. I got burnt. I lost consciousness. When I wake up, I was in pain. It is terrible. My body is on fire,” he cried.

We Have Lost so Much--Market Leader

One of the market leaders, Alhaja Isuat Abiola Oyinlola, counted the losses, saying that “About 45 shops, 15 cars, 12 motorcycles and 6 tricycles got burnt. We cannot even account for the number of lives that were lost in the inferno. This has never happened before. We called the firefighters but you know the intensity at which petroleum burns; they tried their best. The fire spread all the way to Bode and engulfed a petrol nozzle close to the road at a station.”

“I Lost all My Goods”

Morunfat Azeez, a trader, told Nigerian Tribune that she lost all her goods but was grateful to be alive. “We suddenly heard explosion and people started saying a petrol tanker had fallen. Next thing we saw was flames. I thank God that my life and that of my daughter were not lost. Although I lost all my goods, I am grateful to God for sparing my life. A pregnant woman was burnt up with her pregnancy and one nursing mother also and her baby. We lost goods but people lost their lives which is irreplaceable,” she said.

“I jumped into the River in Order to Escape”

Sodiq Ajibola who sold phones at Molete told Nigerian Tribune that he had to jump into a nearby river in order to save his life. According to him, “I was still here yesterday night because I don’t close early. I heard a very loud sound. I thought it was an accident but on rushing out, I saw the fire burning fiercely and coming down the road. All I thought of was saving myself so I dashed out from the back. I lost everything but I am grateful that I did not lose my life. Such an incident has never occurred in Molete. The fire chased me to Bode and it was engulfing cars but the Ibode River was my saving grace. A lot of people have lost their lives.”

Molete Inferno Devastating —Ajimobi

The Oyo State governor, Senator Abiola Ajimobi, has described the incident as devastating. Ajimobi who visited the scene of the incident in the early hours yesterday, also commiserated with the families of the victims and those who lost their properties to the inferno, just as he reiterated that the development was one of the main reasons he always advised people, especially traders beside the road to leave. “I have always been preaching and pleading that people should not be selling by the roadside; you can imagine if there was nobody here, lives could have been saved. Personally, I have been here severally to ensure people comply with the fact that they don’t have to be selling by the roadside. Those who are mainly affected are those that are by the roadside. I do hope that this would not happen again. I use this opportunity to commiserate with the families that have been affected and I pray that their souls be reposed,” he said. He stated further that the government would in no time come up with efforts to educate people more on the need to adhere to the advice of the government, adding that, “this is because our people tend to forget things easily. We will plead with them again as well as ensure we enforce no trading by the roadside.” In addition, State Commissioner of Works, Mr Bimbo Kolade who supervised the evacuation of the burnt tanker and clearance of the scene of the incident, also decried the development and noted that government would take care of the affected victims in the hospital. In his words the Oyo State Commissioner of Police, Kola Sodipo who arrived the scene of the incident joined his officers from the Felele and Challenge divisions who made efforts to control the situation. According to him, “A loaded petrol tanker suspected to have had a break failure while trying to maneuver the Molete roundabout suddenly fell on three cars and exploded immediately, leaving many people dead and injured.” He also lamented the burns sustained by one of his men, Inspector Fatai Oyelami of Idi-Ayunre police division who was caught up in the fire while trying to rescue victims. According to an eyewitness, Mr Morufu Mumini who praised the efforts of the Oyo State Police, he lamented that the firefighters came only about one hour after they were informed. “We tried to quench the fire ourselves before they came. In fact, a police officer was almost burnt but we rescued him. While on the one hand the iron barricade at the roundabout is good,



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it hindered people from running away from the fire scene," Mumini said. Another resident of the area, Alhaji Jelili Jogunosinni noted that indiscriminate parking of vehicles at the roundabout should be looked into by the government. Furthermore, another resident of the area for about 35 years called for the elimination of the touts in the habit of collecting money and for the enforcement of this by law enforcement agents without any form of sentiment. He added, "the government should shift the current central bus stop at Molete to the original place which is Arapaja junction to allow free flow of traffic. All motorcycle, including Eyin grammar drivers should be asked to leave." who lost his Datsun bus with the number plate: APP-85BX, to the inferno lamented that he was helpless when the fire caught up with his bus at the Molete, adding that, "I saw the tanker driver shouting but there was nothing anyone could do because there was traffic at that axis. A crowd watched in amazement as a man gave a sordid account of how he and others narrowly escaped being killed after they were trapped by the fire. According to him, "all of us that went in the same direction were terrified and running as fast as we could but we could not outrun the fire. It was chasing us but at the same time, we could also see it in front of us. At a point, I felt the fire crawling up my back, but I kept running. All I know is that, eventually, I got to a place where I didn't see the fire again. I feel so lucky to be alive." A victim, Mr Segun Abayomi, a shoe maker who also dealt in the sale of fairly used imported bags, was found searching through his burnt merchandise. He said he was on his way from Abeokuta, Ogun State, when he heard about the incident. "I heard the news in Challenge. I was on my way from Abeokuta where I had gone to visit my relations. I became worried for my daughter who was manning the shop for me. But when I got to the shop, I was told my daughter was safe. "She later told me that she was waiting for me to arrive before closing the shop when she slept off. She was woken up by fellow traders who told her to run like they did when they saw the fire coming. "I am sad. I have lost all my investments. My merchandise was worth about N750, 000. I appeal to the government to come to our aid. As you can see, our shops are not by the road. We have not flouted any rule; we steered clear of the road, yet we suffered this fate. Many of us are distressed. The government should assist us," Abayomi told Nigerian Tribune. Another victim, Mrs Oluwatoyin Nafiu, was seen being consoled by sympathisers where she was standing - by the rubble of what used to be her shop where she sold beverages and other items - looking withdrawn and pensive. In an interview with Nigerian Tribune, the distraught woman put her loss at about N500, 000, but expressed gratitude to God for sparing her life. "I had locked up the shop. I was at home when the news came that there had been a tanker accident and my shop had been burnt in the process. When I came, nothing remained; everything was gone, burnt to the ground. "In fact, only yesterday, I bought merchandise worth about N100, 000 but everything is lost now," Mrs Nafiu lamented. University College Hospital's head of public relations unit, Mr Ayodeji Bobade, confirmed that 11 patients were brought into the hospital with different grades of burns. Mr Bobade who said an 8-year-old boy was among the group, said the five women and six men were in the burns unit of the hospital. While declaring that one of them died yesterday, he, however, declined that people would not have access to see them as they need to be kept in a sterile environment. He assured that the hospital was on top of the care, adding that the policy of the hospital was to start treatment of all emergency cases even if they had no money. "We will continue treating them. As they are getting well, the hospital will then pass on their bills to their relatives, when they show up," he declared.

APC Sympathises with Victims

The All Progressives Congress (APC) in Oyo State has described Saturday's tanker inferno at the Molete area of Ibadan, which resulted in the death of unspecified number of persons, as another sad chapter in the history of the state despite efforts of the present administration to forestall the occurrence of such incidents in any part of the state. The APC, in a statement by its Director of Publicity and Strategy, Olawale Sadare, said that the tragedy was not only unfortunate but also devastating in view of the fact that Oyo State "at the moment has a government which prioritizes every pro-active measures required to guarantee the safety and well-being of the people, irrespective of their status or background. "It is most unfortunate that a disaster of this magnitude can befall our dear state again after the administration of Senator Abiola Ajimobi has left no one in doubt of its passion for a disaster-free, violence-free and crime-free society. "We take this as an act of God even as we share in the agony of the victims and members of their family. The Akin Oke-led executive team joins members and supporters of the ruling APC in the state to pray for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives and also wish those injured quickest recovery," the statement said. Meanwhile, the party has called on relevant authorities to encourage concerned agencies in creating or fortifying special units or departments that would be dedicated to the control of activities of owners and drivers of fuel tankers and other heavy-duty vehicles with a view to reducing loss of lives and properties which they cause the society. "In view of the avoidable carnages on our roads often caused by these tankers, trucks and other heavy duty-vehicles, we call on governments at all levels to mandate agencies such as the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Vehicle Inspection Office (VIO) and the Nigeria Police to either create or fortify existing units and departments needed to checkmate the activities of



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owners and operators of these mobile lethal vehicles on our roads in order to reduce the incessant cases of avoidable accidents and attendant gnashing of teeth which they cause the public," the party said.

Related Stories

- [Petrol Tanker Fire Claims 15 Lives in Ibadan](#)
- [Ibadan - Over 15 lives were lost and scores of houses, shops and vehicles badly burnt](#)
- [Tragedy: Many die in Ibadan tanker fire •Including mother, 2 children •Scores injured •Houses](#)

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/news/top-stories/item/18510-ibadan-tanker-explosion-god-i-m-in-pains-victim-man-loses-wife-3-children-11-die-16-sustain-severe-burns-45-shops-15-cars-12-motorcycles-6-tricycles-destroyed>

CANADA, QC, QUEBEC CITY, OCTOBER 13 2014. UPDATE: JEAN-GAULIN REFINERY OIL SPILL CONTAINED, WAS JUST "A SPOT OF OIL"

luciano pipia & andrew brennan

A Lévis oil refinery was the scene of a crude oil spill Saturday, though original spillage estimates are expected to be re-evaluated and substantially lowered. Refinery owners, Énergie Valero, originally reported about 15,000 litres of crude were spilled, but later said in a press release that number could not be confirmed "as it was a significantly inferior volume that actually spilled," although the company did not provide an updated figure. According to the release, Valero found a "spot of oil near a reservoir" and confirms it has contained the leak at the refinery, located in Lévis in the Chaudière-Appalaches region. "There were no injuries and we have found no environmental impacts or security concerns," it continued. Officials said all necessary measures were taken to ensure public safety as well as protecting the environment. The Jean-Gaulin refinery, a supplier for the gas station Ultramar, is said to have the capacity to store 8.7 million barrels of petroleum. An investigation has been opened to determine the cause of the spill.

<http://www.cjad.com/cjad-news/2014/10/12/update-jean-gaulin-refinery-oil-spill-contained-was-just-a-spot-of-oil>

PAKISTAN, ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 13 2014. CAPITAL PETROL PUMPS FINED FOR INADEQUATE SECURITY, LESS MEASURING

A fine amounting to Rs 90,000 was imposed on the owners of petrol pumps for selling fuel in cans, bottles, inadequate security, insufficient firefighting equipment, less measuring of fuel and paying low wages to employees during a surprise inspection of petrol pumps here at Secretariat area. Assistant Commissioner (Secretariat) Islamabad, Waqas Rashid conducted surprise inspection of petrol pumps and imposed fines on the petrol pumps owners, on different account of violations including selling open air fuel in cans/bottles, inadequate security and firefighting equipment arrangement, faulty or less measuring of fuel equipment and paying less wages to the employees in violation of Minimum Wages Act. He directed the petrol pump owners to ensure adequate security arrangements under the Shops and Security Ordinance and ensure payment of minimum wages to the employees as fixed by the government. The petrol pumps inspected and fined include Shell Petrol Pump, 17 Meel, PSO, Zain Trekking, Murree Road, PSO, Simly Dam Road, Shell, Rawal Dam Chowk. Waqas Rashid directed the petrol pump owners to ensure keeping the firefighting equipment in a state of readiness as required under the law.

<http://goo.gl/qA9Ksf>

USA, PA, COAL TWP, OCTOBER 13 2014. 480 TONS OF SOIL REMOVED FROM SITE OF WINTER GAS LEAK

sarah desantis

An excavation crew is working to remove contaminated soil on the south face of Little Mountain along Trevorton Road. Randy Farmerie, professional geologist manager with the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), said the Northridge Group Inc. and Groundwater and Environmental Services Inc. have been removing soil this week in the area where a pipeline, owned and operated by Sunoco Logistics, leaked petroleum last winter. At the time, Jeffrey P. Shields, communications manager for Sunoco, described the leak as small and said the contamination was contained to an area next to the pipeline. However, Farmerie said an investigation was conducted this summer and an area of contamination "that needed to be addressed" was discovered. "The current excavation is meant to remove this area of concern," he said. Shields said Friday he is unsure how much soil will be removed, but that the project is expected to be completed by Nov. 1. He also said the company has not updated their original estimate of product released. Four hundred and eighty tons - 960,000 pounds - of soil has been removed so far, said Farmerie. "There is no set amount at this stage," he said. "They will be removing all of the significant soil contamination at the area of concern." He didn't know Friday how large of an area is affected. After the contaminated soil is removed, further work is needed to complete the remediation plan. "We will be installing a water treatment



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system, including a retention basin and carbon filters, which we will continue to monitor and maintain going forward," said Shields. Vehicles from the firms involved in the cleanup area were staged along Route 225 across from Mountain View Manor, but the area of the leak is believed to be a few miles farther northwest. When the leak was first being addressed, a command center was established in a wooded area across Route 61 from the north end of Tharptown, while another work crew continued to monitor the situation from Route 225 near Forest Hills Fire Company and Annabelle's Family Restaurant. The leak was discovered Dec. 20 when a local resident smelled and saw gasoline while hiking through the woods. A few days later, another neighbor, who gets his water from groundwater and springs at the site, smelled a strong gasoline odor coming from his tap water.

Lawsuit

Anthony W. Nestico, of Coal Township, Anthony W. Nestico Jr., of Nescopeck, and Adrian M. Nestico, of Coal Township, who own property in the area of the cleanup, filed a lawsuit Sept. 3 against Sunoco Logistic Partners LP and Sunoco Pipeline LP. They alleged Sunoco officials said only about "two gallons" of petroleum leaked from the pipeline, which is 14 inches in diameter, and "no waterways were affected." They asked the court to retroactively enact three sets of civil penalties that could cost the company up to \$112,500 per day from Dec. 20 until the site is cleaned up. A call to the Nesticos' lawyer for comment on the cleanup was not returned Friday.

● **On The Web PHMSA:** [Incident and Mileage Data - SUNOCO PIPELINE L.P.](http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/press-releases/2014/10/24/sunoco-pipeline-leak)

<http://newsitem.com/news/480-tons-of-soil-removed-from-site-of-winter-gas-leak-1.1769025>

BULGARIA, SOFIA, OCTOBER 14 2014. RUSSIA'S GAZPROM NEFT TO BUILD 20 NEW FILLING STATIONS IN BULGARIA



Gazprom will build 20 new filling stations in Bulgaria by end-2016, according to Ivan Kostadinov, General Mager of NIS Petrol Bulgaria. NIS Petrol is 100%-owned by Gazprom Neft's subsidiary Naftna Industrija Srbije (NIS). Kostadinov, as cited by Trud daily, explained that the construction works would start in March or April. He noted that NIS Petrol Bulgaria had 35 sites in Bulgaria which had been bought or rented from competitors, and the construction of the new filling stations would increase the total number to 55. Kostadinov said that the priority locations for the new filling stations were the new sections of the Trakia motorway, as well as roads, which concentrated a substantial portion of traffic, the exits of Sofia, and big cities. The General Mager of NIS Petrol Bulgaria made clear that the company had bought 5 other plots on the Lyulin and Hemus motorways, in Sliven and Sofia, and the Kulata border crossing point. He said that the construction permits for seven of the new filling stations had already been issued, with four of them located on the Trakia motorway, and the remaining 3 in Sofia. NIS Petrol Bulgaria currently controls a 2.5% stake on the local fuel retail market and plans to expand its share to 10%.

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/164032/Russia%E2%80%99s+Gazprom+Neft+to+Build+20+New+Filling+Stations+in+Bulgaria>

USA, IND, LINDEN, OCTOBER 14 2014. ETHANOL PLANT FIRE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

alexandra kruczek



Crews responded to a fire at the Valero plant in Linden, Ind. early morning Monday, Oct. 13, 2014.

Crews were called to an early morning fire at the Valero ethanol plant in Montgomery County Monday. After 1 a.m., a call came in about a fire at the Valero plant, just off of U.S. 231 near Linden. Firefighters from six departments responded to the plant just after 1:30 a.m. Monday. Linden firefighters tell News 18, the fire started in the dryer area which is on the west end of the facility. Earl Heide from the Linden Fire Department said it took five hours to put out all of the hotspots. He said there is major damage to the west section of the plant. Authorities said no one was injured in the incident. State investigators are currently trying to determine the cause of the fire.

<http://wlfw.com/2014/10/13/ethanol-plant-fire-in-montgomery-county/>



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ISRAEL, JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 14 2014. THREE HURT IN JERUSALEM GAS STATION BLAST

Yoni Kempinski & Gil Ronen

Gasoline fumes may have caused the explosion that 'miraculously' left gas tanker unharmed.

 **Watch the Video:** [3 Hurt in J Gas Station Blast](#)

 **Photo's [3]:** [3 Hurt in J Gas Station Blast](#)



Three people were lightly hurt Monday morning as a result of a blast that occurred at a Paz gas station on Hahoma Hashlishit street in Jerusalem, not far from the Old City. Magen David Adom emergency rescue teams tended to the injured and evacuated them to hospital. The reason for the blast is not known, but one suspicion is that it was caused by leaked gasoline fumes that ignited and exploded. MDA paramedics Netanel Azulai and Naftali Geter, who were first on the scene, said: "The place looked like the scene of a terror attack. There was great damage and the Yellow [convenience] store was destroyed. Nearby, a gas tanker stood, miraculously undamaged. "At the same time, large MDA forces arrived and we began to search for casualties. We found three who were lightly hurt. One is a man aged about 55 who had stood next to the fueling pumps. Another, a woman aged about 40, was inside a car that was damaged by a door that flew and crashed into her car in the explosion. A third is a man aged about 30 who was going out of the store. They were suffering from dry bruising and one also suffered a blow to the head. "They were evacuated in light condition and were fully conscious."

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/186095#.VDxLQPmUfg8>

NEPAL, PALPA, OCTOBER 14 2014. NINE THOUSAND LITRES PETROL DESTROYED IN TANKER MISHAP

Nine thousand litres of petrol was destroyed when a fuel tanker met with an accident on the Palpa Aryabhanjyang – Rampur road section near Basuwa of Siluwa VDC. The tanker with registration number Na 2 Kha 512, transporting petrol to Rampur, Palpa from Butwal, met with an accident at around 1 am today. The tanker was carrying petrol for the Rampur Enterprises. Petrol worth about Rs 1.2 million spilled after the accident, said Bhoj Raj Bhattarai, proprietor of the Enterprises. The tanker driver and his helper are safe.

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Nine+thousand+litres+petrol+destroyed+in+tanker+mishap&NewsID=430294>

USA, WI, PRAIRIE DU SAC, OCTOBER 14 2014. SAUK PRAIRIE HOMES, SCHOOLS EVACUATED FOLLOWING PROPANE RELEASE

 **Photo's [4]:** [Homes, Schools Evacuated Following Underground Propane Release](#)



City of Madison Fire Department Hazardous Incident Team members prepare to search for concentrations of propane following a release of the gas that happened at the Sauk Prairie Wellspring Center on Oct. 13.

Homes and schools within a four-block radius of the former Sauk Prairie hospital in Prairie du Sac were evacuated the morning of Oct. 13 following the accidental release of large amounts of propane. Contractors working near the Oak Street structure struck an underground propane tank. A message sent out on the Sauk County Nixle Alert information system at 8:52 a.m. recommended residents should close their windows and stay indoors. In a follow-up message sent at 9:48 a.m., the alert system recommended all residents within the four-block radius evacuate the area. A temporary shelter for displaced residents was set up at the Community Center in Sauk City. Students at Grand Avenue Elementary School were moved to Sauk Prairie High School, while St. Aloysius School students were taken to the Sauk Prairie Community Center. Shortly after 1 p.m., residents were informed that the area was safe for people to return home. Sauk Prairie Police chief Jerry Strunz said the leak occurred when a contractor worked to remove an underground propane tank



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from the Wellspring Center at the site of the former hospital. "You could actually see a cloud coming from the tanks, so it sounds like it was a large release," Strunz said. "Right now, we don't know if the line was broken or if it was a valve on the tank that was rusted, and once the earth was moved it ruptured." Strunz said the Madison Fire Department's Hazardous Incident Team was called in to help find any concentrated areas of propane and to mitigate any effects. "When you're dealing with liquid propane, it tends to settle," Strunz said. "Hazmat will go in and check basements and low lying locations to see if there's been any pooling of the propane." He said the tank was at 80 percent capacity, or about 800 gallons of propane. Sauk Prairie Hospital CEO Larry Schroeder said the tank was being removed because it was no longer needed there. "The evacuation was precautionary and appropriate," Schroeder said. "Right now the Hazmat team is down at the site and measuring the air quality level."

http://www.wiscnews.com/baraboonewsrepublic/news/local/article_08eebb94-836f-5fcc-ba26-a13f264ad548.html

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, KURNELL, OCTOBER 14 2014. CALTEX SHUTS SYDNEY REFINERY



Caltex Australia's 58-year-old Sydney oil refinery at Kurnell is now officially closed with the last of its operations shut down. The site is now being run by Caltex as a fuel import terminal. The \$270 million two-year process to convert the refinery cost more than 300 jobs. The refinery produced 135,000 barrels a day at its peak. However, the company decided to shut the refining plant in July 2012, blaming competition from more modern, larger and efficient refineries in the Asian region. Now, the site will be used to import, store and distribute fuel, where previously crude oil was imported and processed to make fuel products including jet fuel that was pumped directly to Sydney airport. The new site will employ about 45 people, compared to 430 when the conversion was announced. The number of refineries in Australia has been steadily reducing,

with BP to close its Brisbane refinery in 2015. The nation would then supply barely a third of its own fuel raising concerns about energy security. Caltex hopes to sell the plant's processing units, which could be used in the refining or petrochemical industries. The company, which is half-owned by US oil giant Chevron, makes the bulk of its earnings as a fuel supplier and operator of petrol stations.

Related Stories:

- [Caltex Shuts Down Refinery Process Units, Moves to Export](#)
- [Kurnell Caltex Oil Refinery Shuts after almost 59 Years](#)

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-business/caltex-shuts-sydney-refinery-20141014-3hy6o.html>

USA, MI, DETROIT, OCTOBER 14 2014. JACKKNIFED TANKER TRUCK HITS CHURCH IN SOUTHWEST DETROIT TRIGGERING HAZMAT SITUATION

 **Watch the Video:** [Jackknifed Tanker Truck Hits Church in Southwest Detroit](#)

crews are on the scene of an accident involving a tanker truck on Detroit's southwest side. It's happening at Addison and McGraw. Police say the truck was exiting I-94 onto McGraw when the driver lost control and jackknifed. The truck then hit the Universal Church of Divine Power, rupturing the truck's fuel tank and the church's gas line. No one was injured in the accident. Officers say several dozen gallons of diesel fuel has leaked. A strong smell of natural gas is also prevalent in the area. Firefighters are going door-to-door, asking people to leave the area if they can. They are also restricting access to the accident scene.

<http://www.wxyz.com/news/region/detroit/jackknifed-tanker-truck-hits-church-in-southwest-detroit-triggering-hazmat-situation>

USA, ILL, ANNAWAN, OCTOBER 14 2014. TRUCKER HURT AS TANKER CRASHES ON INTERSTATE 80

State police were called to the scene of a semi-tanker rollover crash at 7:18 a.m. this morning in the eastbound lanes of Interstate 80 about five miles east of Annawan. Annawan Fire Department first responders and a state police accident reconstruction team were still at the location as of 8:45 a.m. and Illinois Department of Transportation has been notified of the accident, according to state trooper John Morscheiser. Morscheiser said the name and condition of the driver has not yet been released, and the investigation is ongoing; however it is believed the driver is not from the Illinois Valley area. Initial reported indicated the driver was ejected from the cab of the truck.

<http://newstrib.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=27&ArticleID=39677>



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USA, OK, BLANCHARD, OCTOBER 14 2014. BLANCHARD FIREFIGHTERS BATTLED TANK BATTERY FIRE

 [Photo's Firefighters Battle Tank Battery Fire](#)



Blanchard firefighters battled a tank battery fire early Monday morning. The blaze was one-and-a-half miles south of Sara Road on Highway 62. No more information was immediately available. Stay with KOCO 5 News for latest information on breaking news.

<http://www.koco.com/news/blanchard-firefighters-battled-tank-battery-fire/29084858>

USA, TX, LONGVIEW, OCTOBER 14 2014. RESIDENTS ALLOWED BACK IN HOMES NEAR TANK BATTERY FIRE SITE

michael cavazos

 [Photo's \[5\] Residents allowed back in Homes](#)



A fire burns at an oil well site in the 2300 block of H.G. Mosley Parkway on Monday, Oct. 13, 2014.

Residents are being allowed back in their homes after a tank battery fire caused the evacuation of about 20 homes and 13 businesses this morning in Longview. The blaze at the tank battery near Enchanted Lane and H.G. Mosley Parkway started is believed to have started by lightning at about 6:14 a.m., according to Longview Fire Marshal Johnny Zackary, and it one of three fires to which emergency personnel responded this morning. H.G. Mosley Parkway has been reopened to motorists after a portion was closed as emergency crews worked near the scene of the blaze. The fire is now out. Zackary said there were about 240 barrels of product in the tank at the time of fire. The attic of a home not far from the oil well site caught fire shortly after 8 a.m. Fire crews already in the

area responded to the blaze in the 1000 block of Riverwood Drive. Zackary said lightning was also likely the cause of the blaze at 6:19 a.m. in the 1600 block of Pine Ridge Drive.

http://www.news-journal.com/news/police/residents-allowed-back-in-homes-near-tank-battery-fire-site/article_169c125c-52d3-11e4-aae6-afea8ba1d856.html

USA, N.J., MOONACHIE, OCTOBER 14 2014. MOONACHIE FACTORY EXPLOSION THAT INJURED FOUR 'UNDER CONTROL,' OFFICIALS SAY

myles ma

A deafening explosion at the Inoac Crest Foam plant shook Moonachie Monday, prompting a response from more than a dozen agencies and injuring four workers. The plant sits on a dead end in Moonachie, probably unnoticed by most people in the neighborhood. They all know about it now. The blast could be heard as far as neighboring Little Ferry. "It almost knocked us off our feet," said Moonachie First Assistant Fire Chief Justin Deravyanik, who lives three blocks from the plant. And because hazardous materials are used to create the foam products in the building, the Moonachie Police Department issued a reverse 911 call to residents, warning them to shut their windows after the blast. The Bergen County Hazardous Materials team determined no hazardous materials were released into the air or building in the explosion, and residents were able to open their windows by 7 p.m. "The right now the situation is under control," Deravyanik said. The machine that exploded combines hydrogen and oxygen to make a foam used by industries as a filter, Mike Bessette, president of the plant, said. The cause of the explosion is under investigation. The 17 employees inside the plant at the time of the 4:30 p.m. explosion all evacuated on their own, Deravyanik said. Four were treated at Hackensack University Medical Center for minor injuries after suffering blows to the head. The rest underwent decontamination by the Garfield hazardous materials team and sent home.



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The decontamination and reverse 911 call were made out of an abundance of caution due to the hazardous materials in the building, Deravyanik said. "Until we got an all clear from our guys, we wanted the residents to know what was going on, because the whole neighborhood heard the explosion," he said. The building will remain empty until a structural engineer determines it's safe to enter, Deravyanik said. The explosion damaged a central warehouse, electrical components and the sprinkler system, he said. The plant is the only one of its kind the Inoac company operates, Bessette said. "It was a loud boom," said Bessette, who was in his office. "There was some damage when the ceiling fixtures fell down and everyone quickly evacuated."

http://www.nj.com/bergen/index.ssf/2014/10/moonachie_factory_explosion_that_injured_four_under_control_officials_say.html

USA, WASHINGTON DC, OCTOBER 14 2014. INDONESIA MAY FINALLY SEE THEIR DAY IN COURT AGAINST EXXON MOBIL

carey l. biron



A case on Exxon Mobil's alleged human rights abuses in Indonesia can proceed in a U.S. court, but only if it can be proven that the decision-making process that led to those abuses unfolded on U.S. soil.

Two court cases stemming from longstanding human rights abuse allegations against Exxon Mobil Corp. operations in Indonesia are again going forward, following a federal judge's decision here that supporters call a "huge victory." Rights advocates say the news is being welcomed by the plaintiffs and others in the Indonesian province of Aceh, who have been waiting for 13 years for a resolution to these and similar allegations. Indeed, the new movement in the cases could now result in a full trial, leaving open the prospect of Exxon Mobil executives coming face to face with Aceh villagers. Legal scholars note that the

judge's decision, which also rejected the oil and gas giant's request that the cases be dismissed, could now prove consequential around broader questions of corporate accountability. This has to do with the continued legal roiling that has followed a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that last year significantly limited the ability of foreign victims of corporate rights abuse to have their cases heard in this country's courts. The Indonesia cases, previously known as John Doe I and VIII v. Exxon Mobil Corporation, could now offer new clarity in how that precedent will be interpreted. "This ruling is going to be important for the audience in Aceh, 10,000 miles away from Washington, D.C., to learn that Exxon Mobil might face these Acehne villagers in a U.S. court. It is also obviously important for the audience in Indonesia," Andreas Harsono, an Indonesia researcher with Human Rights Watch, told MintPress News. "It is also important to advance the possibility of legal redress when companies are implicated in human rights abuse, especially because there are few avenues for victims when their rights are violated. U.S. courts have recently been hostile to the notion that companies should be domestically accountable for human rights problems abroad." The allegations stretch back to abuses carried out by the Indonesian military between 1999 and 2004 against villagers in Aceh. According to complaints first filed by locals in 2001, Exxon Mobil should be held responsible for some of these abuses because the company had hired and armed military personnel to run security around some of the massive gas fields in the province. The plaintiffs allege that "Exxon had the ability to control the actions of these soldiers by such methods as conditioning payment on provision of specific security services, making decisions about placement of bases, engaging in strategic mission planning, and deciding on deployment zones," according to the [decision](#), which was handed down by U.S. District Court Judge Royce Lamberth in late September. "Plaintiffs further assert that Exxon provided material support to the security personnel by, for example, constructing facilities, providing funding for weapons, providing supplies and equipment, and paying for the services of consultants in training and equipping the personnel."

No Answer on Liability

Of course, abuses by the Indonesian military against villages in Aceh continued for decades, in the context of the violent civil war that had long wracked the region. Exxon Mobil took control over what are known as the Arun gas fields, some of the largest in the world, when it merged with Mobil Oil in 1999. At that time, the military was simultaneously working for the company and harshly pursuing separatist militants. According to details in the complaint, while working for Mobil Oil and, later, Exxon Mobil, Indonesian security personnel caused injuries and even the deaths of local villagers. Exxon Mobil, meanwhile, has vigorously maintained its innocence. Legal attempts to hold the company accountable have stretched on through multiple judges and more than a dozen years. "The plaintiffs' claims are without merit ... We have fought these baseless claims for many years," a spokesperson for the company told the media following Judge Lamberth's decision. "While conducting its



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business in Indonesia, Exxon Mobil has worked for generations to improve the quality of life in Aceh through employment of local workers, provision of health services and extensive community investment." The spokesperson noted that the judge has reached no conclusion about Exxon Mobil's liability. Indeed, the recent decision adds new complexities to the case, although it does also clarify how the prosecution should proceed. The process will now take place under Indonesian state law, thus spanning U.S., Indonesian and international legal regimes. It will also take into account the new legal environment in the aftermath of last year's U.S. Supreme Court decision. In fact, that case, known as *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Shell*, involved circumstances somewhat similar to the allegations against Exxon Mobil.

Touch & Concern

The *Kiobel* case revolved around claims by Nigerian citizens that the local subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell, abetted by the Nigerian government, abused local communities that were opposing the company's oil and gas development. Such cases are notoriously difficult to pursue, given questions over jurisdiction. However, the U.S. legal system has long had a law on the books, known as the Alien Torts Statute, that has been used to provide a unique avenue for redress for victims of certain crimes that have taken place in other countries. The *Kiobel* case was indeed brought against Royal Dutch Shell's U.S. subsidiary under the ATS. Yet in a [unanimous decision](#) that shocked many observers, the Supreme Court last year severely limited this option. Further, while questioning the extent of Shell's connection to the United States, the justices introduced a new metric. ATS cases may still be able to go forward, the Supreme Court stated, but only if plaintiffs' complaints "touch and concern" the U.S. directly. The actual degree of this required connection was not defined, though "mere corporate presence" is not enough. Since then, lower-level courts have been conflicted over how exactly to interpret this new mandate. Thus, while Royal Dutch Shell's decision-making process was deemed too removed from the U.S. in the *Kiobel* case, the plaintiffs in the Aceh case point out that Exxon Mobil was and remains headquartered in Texas. In what is considered a major move, Judge Lamberth has now allowed the plaintiffs' lawyers to re-argue their case in light of this new "touch and concern" standard. The central question for the court is defining the extent to which Exxon Mobil's decision-making around its security operation in Aceh came directly out of the company's Houston headquarters. "In light of the Supreme Court's holding in *Kiobel* ... the Court must determine what U.S.-based conduct is alleged by plaintiffs to decide whether the presumption against territoriality is overcome in this case," Judge Lamberth writes. "If plaintiffs have sufficiently alleged conduct within the United States that is actionable under the ATS, their ATS claims are not defeated on the basis of the presumption against extraterritoriality." As noted in the complaint quoted at the end of the first section of this story, the plaintiffs appear to feel they have evidence that this U.S.-based decision-making was indeed significant. "This was a really strong opinion, and this will now be one of the first cases to consider how *Kiobel* applies when significant control is exerted from within the United States," Agnieszka Fryszman, the lead counsel in the case, told MintPress. "Here, pretty much everything was run out of Houston."

Message on Impunity

An important facet to Judge Lamberth's legal logic – and to any ATS claim – is the finding that the plaintiffs would be unable to find justice for their allegations through the Indonesian courts and in the absence of any human rights tribunal. The judge notes that this is in part due to political corruption. This points to an ongoing concern for many rights activists focusing on Indonesia, including here in the U.S. Beyond allegations of U.S. corporate use of the Indonesian military, after all, the U.S. government is known to have supported Indonesia's security forces in its years-long fights against separatist groups. "The failure of Indonesia to fulfill its pledge to establish a truth commission and human rights court for Aceh clearly demonstrates how impunity prevails in Indonesia," John M. Miller, the national coordinator of the East Timor and Indonesia Action Network, an advocacy group, told MintPress. "This lawsuit can shine a light on U.S. complicity with systematic violation of human rights in Indonesia, while sending a strong message to U.S. companies that they can't participate in repression abroad with impunity." Following Judge Lamberth's decision, the plaintiffs' legal team will now file an amended complaint before the end of this month.

<http://www.mintpressnews.com/indonesians-may-finally-see-day-court-exxon-mobil/197609/>

NIGERIA, DELTA, WARRI, OCTOBER 14 2014. ENVIRONMENTALIST CALLS FOR SCRAPPING OF NOSDRA

emma arubi

A Warri based environmentalist and activist, Eyitemi Brown-Dibofun, has called for the immediate scrapping of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA). NOSDRA is the agency responsible for attending to issues bothering on oil spillage. Brown-Dibofun called for its scrapping for allegedly conniving with officials of NPDC, a subsidiary of the NNPC, to short-change oil impacted communities in the Niger Delta region. He also accused the agency of connivance, corruption, incompetence, ineptitude and engaging in divide and rule tactics in impacted communities to arm-twist them in order to coerce



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them into agreeing to polluters' terms of settlement of claims. In an interview with Daily Independent in Warri, at the weekend, Brown-Dibofun expressed dismay that the spill that occurred in Ikara community in Edo State from a point on the NPDC pipelines on February 18, 2014 running into over 2000 barrels of crude was estimated by NOSDRA to be just 40 barrels .

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201410132259.html>

NEW ZEALAND, NELSON, OCTOBER 14 2014. GAS BLAST FELT LIKE BOMB

anna bradley-smith & sally kidson



Craig Piner examines a damaged wall of the house after the explosion.

A welding gas explosion which seriously injured a Nelson man was like a bomb going off, say residents in the Brook. Neighbour Tot Heric, who was right next door to the explosion on the corner of Blick Tce and Robinson Rd yesterday, said it felt as though the side of her house was going to cave in. "The pillows jumped right off the couch and pictures came off the wall. "I've lived next door to bikers, I know what a bomb sounds like." Kerry Bateman was welding when the explosion happened just before 4.30pm. He was taken to Nelson Hospital by ambulance before being transferred to Hutt Hospital where he is in a serious condition. His partner, Karen Berge, tended to him before emergency services arrived. Fire

Service Senior Station Officer Grahame Kurth said it was a major explosion for a domestic property and the house was badly damaged. Kurth said Bateman was thrown off his feet by the force of the blast and found staggering outside the basement. Blick Tce was cordoned off by police as a fire crew and St John paramedics attended the scene. Kurth said the house was not liveable and he had requested a building inspector, an engineer, Work Safe New Zealand and a fire engineer to check the house. Details surrounding the cause of the explosion are still being investigated but Kurth said it was possible that gas had leaked into the walls, fuelling the explosion. Westbrook Tce resident Lee Fearnley said he was sitting on his couch when he heard a huge explosion and felt the house shake. He said whatever exploded would have been substantial to cause the massive blast. A boy who was jumping on his trampoline nearby when the explosion occurred said the ground shook and it sounded like a bazooka had gone off. "It echoed through the whole valley. It gave everyone a huge fright, even my mum." Christine Horlemann said the blast shook the floors of her home more than 100 metres away. "All the dogs were barking." Ang Kondo was driving on Westbrook Tce with her daughter when she heard and felt the blast. She lives on the corner of Blick Tce next door to her mother. Worried about her mother and another friend who lives nearby in a granny flat, she went to investigate. Bateman was being looked after and had a "massive laceration" on his buttock. It was "pretty horrific". He was conscious and his partner Berge was "absolutely amazing. She's a rock". Kondo said Bateman would be 79 in April and had just returned from a holiday in France. He was "tough as old boots". "If anyone is going to make it, he is." A lot of shredded silver insulation paper was visible in the basement garage following the blast. Bateman is a retired surveyor who was the driving force behind getting Codgers' Track in the Brook Valley cut with four other retirees.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/10614540/Gas-blast-felt-like-bomb>

ENGLAND, HUDDERSFIELD, OCTOBER 15 2014..HOYER PETROLOG RENEWS SUPPORT FOR TRANSAID

henryk zientek



Hoyer Petrolog

A senior driver for Hoyer Petrolog is travelling to Tanzania to help provide driver training. Haulage specialist Hoyer Petrolog UK is renewing its backing for Transaid, the international development charity focused on transport management and driver training in developing countries. Hoyer Petrolog, which is part of Hoyer with a depot at Leeds Road in Huddersfield, has previously seconded three trainers to deliver driver and hazardous goods training with Transaid. Now Chris Hill, one of its senior driver training instructors, will embark on the firm's fourth trip in support of the charity – this time to Tanzania. Hoyer said that being able to help drivers in other countries make improvements to driver technique and the handling of dangerous goods had proved personally and professionally fulfilling for its trainers.

<http://www.examiner.co.uk/news/business/hoyer-petrolog-renews-support-transaid-7927208>



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