



## **Factsheet on ExxonMobil's Human Rights Record**

As the largest petrochemical energy company in the world, ExxonMobil operates in all corners of the world including highly politically unstable countries such as Chad, Indonesia, Colombia, Nigeria and Angola. The company routinely works with governments that have committed serious human rights abuses against their citizens. However, ExxonMobil has no company human rights policy and has consistently rebuffed appeals by leading human rights organizations to develop and implement a human rights policy, which will guide its global business operations.

ExxonMobil is leading a consortium of investors that have developed the Doba oil fields in the southern region of Cameroon. Other members of the consortium include Chevron Corporation and Petronas of Malaysia. The project includes a 1,050-kilometer pipeline from Doba to Cameroon's Atlantic coast. The project has a price tag of \$3.5 billion and in June 2000, the World Bank agreed to invest \$365 million help finance a controversial oil pipeline project.

The Chadian government has been criticized for systematic harassment and detention of local activists, journalists, and elected officials critical of the project. In March of 1998, Chadian security forces reportedly killed more than 200 unarmed civilians in the villages of Dobarra and Lara in the Doba oil region. Chad continues to suffer from grave human rights violations and a culture of impunity. For example, no one has been brought to justice for serious human rights violations, including thousands of extra judicial executions, which occurred under the previous government of Hissein Habré (1982-1990). Under the Deby government, torture (including rape) continues to be routine during interrogation and as a form of intimidation. The security forces also continue to commit extra judicial executions with impunity.

Amnesty International has serious concerns over the security and safety of groups who express concern or oppose the pipeline construction. Representatives of civil society bodies, including human rights groups, were included in a government body to monitor the project. However in 1999 a number of civil society members who had spoken out against the pipeline or who had sought to raise awareness of the rights issues involved were intimidated or detained. Despite provisions to restrict the use of revenues from the pipeline for development projects such as schools and hospitals, President Idriss Déby acknowledged in October 2000 that part of the international finance received for the project had been allocated to the defense budget. Military equipment, including helicopters and jeeps used in counter-insurgency operations was reportedly purchased.



In Cameroon, indigenous groups along the pipeline are facing grave consequences from the disruption caused by the project. There have also been many questions about the consultation process to evaluate the effect of the project on local communities in Cameroon, which Transparency International designated in 1998 and 1999 as "the most corrupt country in the world."

The construction of the pipeline threatens the rainforests of Cameroon and farming land in Chad. In addition to this immediate environmental threat, ExxonMobil, has yet to develop an adequate response plan to potential oil spills, which would be disastrous to the ecosystems of Chad and Cameroon.

Amnesty International is also concerned about is the involvement of Mobil in the conflict in Aceh Indonesia. On March 9 2001 ExxonMobil announced that it had closed three of its liquid natural gas fields in Aceh citing security concerns. The same day the commander of the armed forces and the Indonesia defense minister announced new military operations against the GAM insurgents in Aceh. As part of its agreement with the government of Indonesia, and Pertamina, which is a joint owner of the P.T. Arun plant in North Aceh, Indonesia security forces known to have a history of committing grave human rights violations, are contracted to guard this facility.

A Business Week investigation conducted in late 1998 revealed multiple human rights abuses were perpetrated on or near P.T. Arun's property, which is jointly owned by ExxonMobil. The Business Week article alleged that abuses including torture, kidnapping, and murder were committed. Mobil equipment was allegedly used to dig mass graves near the P. T. Arun site. In addition, the article alleges that Mobil facilities were used to conduct torture. (See Peter Engardio and Michael Shari "What Did Mobil Know?" Business Week, 28, December 1998: 58).

On June 20, 2001 the International Labor Rights Fund filed a civil suit against ExxonMobil on behalf of 11 villagers in Aceh. The IRLF charged that Mobil Oil "contracted with the Indonesia military to provide security for its Arun natural gas project and controlled and directed the units assigned to it." The suit alleges that Mobil is complicit in these human rights abuses with P.T. Arun. Additionally the IRLF suit emphasizes that ExxonMobil has done nothing to discourage the TNI forces from violating the human rights of the Acehenese. ExxonMobil, of course, denies these allegations and a statement on their website explains that they "condemn the violation of human rights in any form," and "categorically denies any suggestion or implication that it or its affiliate companies were in any way involved in alleged human rights abuses by security forces in Aceh" (See ExxonMobil website).



We call on ExxonMobil to develop and adopt a comprehensive and verifiable human rights policy, which will govern its global business operations. The policy shall include an explicit commitment to support and uphold principles and values contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ExxonMobil must also commit itself to the protection of the human rights of those who reside along the pipeline and publicly disclose its security arrangements with the Chadian government and other third parties. ExxonMobil should also ensure that any security arrangement it enters into protect human rights and are consistent with international standards for law enforcement personnel.

**Learn More:**

[www.aiusa.org](http://www.aiusa.org)

[www.pressurepoint.org](http://www.pressurepoint.org)

[www.laborrights.org](http://www.laborrights.org)

[www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)