



April 10, 2009

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Attorney General, State of New York
New York State Office of the Attorney General
120 Broadway
New York, New York 10271

Dear Hon. Cuomo:

I write to you on behalf of Amnesty International USA (AIUSA), the United States section of Amnesty International, a Nobel-prize winning international human rights organization with over 2.2 million members worldwide. AIUSA is headquartered in New York City.

AIUSA writes as shareholders of the Chevron Corporation to seek your assistance to determine if the company is misleading shareholders regarding a potential \$27 billion liability for environmental damage in the Amazon region of Ecuador.

According to various news reports, Chevron is the defendant in a lawsuit in Ecuador asserting the company dumped billions of gallons of toxic waste into Amazon waterways over a 26-year period. The case, brought by 30,000 private citizens, is being tried in Ecuador after it was transferred at Chevron's request from U.S. federal court in 2002. Recently, a court-appointed technical expert estimated Chevron's damages in the case at up to \$27 billion. This litigation could produce the highest-ever judgment in an environmental case and effectively wipe out more than a year of the Chevron's profits.

Our concern stems primarily from a statement by Chevron in reference to the Ecuador litigation, put out verbatim by the company in its last four public filings, which asserts the following:

As to matters of law, the company believes first, that the [Ecuadorean] court lacks jurisdiction over Chevron; second, that the law under which plaintiffs bring the action, enacted in 1999, cannot be applied retroactively to Chevron; third, that the claims are barred by the statute of limitations in Ecuador; and, fourth, that the lawsuit is also barred by the releases from liability previously given to Texpet by the Republic of Ecuador and PetroEcuador.

Each of the four assertions in this statement -- which go to the heart of the company's potential financial exposure in the Ecuador litigation -- appear to be factually incorrect or misleading.

The official record of the case when it was before U.S. federal judge Jed Rakoff clearly indicates that Chevron subjected itself to jurisdiction in Ecuador and waived statute of limitations

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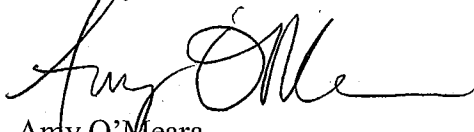
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defenses, directly contradicting points one and three above. (See Annex A for Stipulation and Order.) It also appears that the release of liability referred to by Chevron is not accurately characterized. That release, according to its plain language and various news reports, does not cover the claims of private litigants and at a minimum is under legal dispute in the Ecuador litigation – contradicting the fourth point in the statement above. (See Annex B for release language.) Finally, the plaintiffs in the case assert that they are bringing their substantive claims under a statute that dates to 1861 – not a 1999 law, as Chevron asserts. Given these facts, we are concerned Chevron's public filings mislead shareholders and potential investors about the company's enormous potential financial risk in the Ecuador case.

Your vigilance as Attorney General is essential to ensuring the sort of frank corporate disclosure that protects investors and financial markets as well as allows shareholders to make informed decisions about companies they own when those companies are implicated in human rights abuses. This is especially important with a company like Chevron which has reportedly also misled shareholders as to liability stemming from human rights violations connected to their operations in Burma (Myanmar), and potentially assumed greater liability than publicly reported after acquiring Unocal.

For the reasons stated above, we are deeply concerned about Chevron's public filings as they relate to the Ecuador litigation. We therefore ask for your assistance in determining whether Chevron's current level of disclosure complies with its legal obligations.

Sincerely,



Amy O'Meara

Policy Director, Economic Relations

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