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The main objective of this paper is to review incidents of oil spill and pipeline vandalism in oil companies to examine the potential environmental danger resulting from such activities. The main objective to be studied is to attain the objective of direct impact of oil companies on public health. Oil spills usually lead to immediate as well as long-term environmental damage. Among the environmental damage caused by oil spill can last long after the occurrence of the spill (Richman, 2010: 2). Despite greater part of the world economies depending on production or the trade of oil to fuel economies, these activities can result to severe environmental damage, either unintentionally or knowingly. Production of oil and transportation can cause disruption to human population, wild and domestic animals together with aquatic life (Anderson, et al 1993: 640). Dumping of oil waste, pollution of production, and spills cause destruction to the wildlife and habitat. This threatens the extinction of several plants, and has already caused harm to plant species, land, air and sea animals.

The effects of oil on marine life result from either the physical nature of the oil, that is smothering and contamination or via its chemical components, that is accumulation and toxic effects leading to training) (Anderson, et al 1993: 630). Marine life may as well be affected by operations of clean-up or indirectly via physical damage to the habitats where animals and plants live. The most endangered plants and animals are the ones, which can come into close contact with a contaminated sea surface such as reptiles and animals, birds feeding through diving or those forming flocks on the sea, marine life on shorelines; and animals and plants in mari-culture facilities.

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Runoffs from processing of petrol and petrochemical plants have dumped a considerable amount of toxic wastes in the surrounding waters. Oil and gas pipelines have stanching many rivers and creeks, resulting to farmland and prime pastures. Additionally, entire lagoons and bays along coasts have been filled by oil spills and toxic chemicals runoffs.

The environmental damage resulting from retraction of oil can as well affect human life directly in the region. Damage can comprise of water resources pollution, and soil contamination. Human beings are affected by environmental devastation since it causes damage to the livestock, vegetation, and to the human body health (Ismail, 1994: 65). Oil spills can cause interference with the normal power station working and desalination plants that need continuous clean water supply and with the safe operation of coastal ports and industries. Environmental destruction can result to conflict in regions producing oil (Oil Outlook, 1996). Environmental harm linked to oil resources can be ascribed to a conflict effect, or, in some cases, it is linked to military aggression aimed at damaging the region's natural resources.

There are various case studies that demonstrate that oil production and oil resources conflict can have on the environment. Columbia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan are only a few examples are only a few examples of regions where production of oil has resulted to damaging environmental effects. Some of these regions are analyzed as they exemplify some of the situations through which production and social unrest have resulted to environmental destruction (Metcalf & Eddy, 2003). Additionally, some instances in which oil has resulted to conflict over a region include the Persian Gulf War, Spratly Island Dispute, and Island Dispute.

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Ecuador

The national budget of Ecuador is funded by oil earnings and continued exploration and production is thought to be necessary to ensure the wellbeing of the necessary. The country has attempted to increase production and hold auctions of increasing foreign investment. Oil revenue dependence has resulted to hindrance of environmental enforcement, this has as a result resulted to damaging consequences to indigenous tribes, which live in the Amazon regions as well as the environment in the country's eastern part. The Ecuador Indians, residing in the Amazon region of Oriente, have being advocating for resisting oil exploration and demanding rights to their ancestral lands (Armstrong, Angela & Vallejo, 2004).

The majority of indigenous tribes in the Amazon region that once numbered in the thousands have been reduced to the hundreds due to the pollution resulting from exploration of oil together with other assaults. Contamination of water has resulted to increased risk of health concerns like nausea, headaches, dermatitis, abortion, cancer and fungal infections. Their fishing, bathing, drinking water has higher levels of toxins than the safety limits which have been set by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The oil companies, which were involved in drilling in the rain forest, were responsible for clearing many trees spilling huge oil amounts, dynamiting the earth, habitat destruction, and river fouling. Water pollution has resulted to death of fish; with the game hunted by the tribes retreating deeper into the jungle due to the effects of deforestation. The Rainforest Action Network established that Texaco alone had spilled about 17 million crude oil gallons, it has abandoned considerable number of unlined toxic waste ponds, and constructed oil roads that had rendered over 2.5 million acres of forest for colonization (Armstrong, Angela & Vallejo, 2004).

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Consequently, oil companies and settlers are cutting down Ecuador rain forests at a rate of 330,000 hectares annually. The obtained wood is used for furniture, fuel, construction, and roads.

The oil exploration has resulted to numerous environmental problems of different types in the Amazon region. The Amazon basin in Ecuador contains the highest number of plant species in all the South American countries. the Sierra highlands have to a greater extend been deforested. In addition, the Oriente forms a jungle with many mammals being endangered. Oil originally placed on roads to cut dust has flowed into rivers. In the past, oil waste was placed in ground holes contaminating the rivers and forests. Officials in Ecuador estimate that ruptures in major pipeline alone have resulted to a discharge of over 16.8 million oil gallons into the Amazon for the past eighteen years as compared to the Exxon Valdez-spill of 10.8 million-gallons.

Columbia

The Columbian's Andes mountains forms the newest oil hot spot with various international companies drilling in this region. Drilling of oil is a profitable business for the exploring corporations together with the Columbian government that gets a huge amounts of funds for all the recovered oil barrel. Nonetheless, the process is faced with some violence and criticism from environmentalists. The Marxist guerrillas have repeated interrupted production through using terrorist tactics, which comprise of kidnappings and bombings (Althaus, 1996). Environmental agencies have challenged Columbian laws concerning degradation of environment because of the oil exploration and extraction methods primarily caused by foreign corporations.

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Not all the Columbians are happy that the oil companies are extracting more oil in their country. The peasant groups and paramilitary groups together with the drug cartels have caused trouble on the oil-pumping stations. The majority of the wells are situated in the stomping ground of the Medellin drug cartel together with its competitors. The areas also house the little known emerald wars, to three distinct groups of the Marxist guerrillas as well as the increasingly terroristic national police force that seeks to calm the mayhem.

The British Petroleum drilling site in the eastern foothills of the Andes have been described as an armed camp that is filled with khaki-dressed, rifle-trotting guards and surrounded by weapon emplacements and two rows of flood-lit razor wire. This fortress is essential for quelling some of the mayhem resulting from Marxism guerrillas in the regions who protest the eradication of coca crops. Since it is not easy to stop the process of coca eradication, the guerrillas attack the oil sites together with pipelines as a demonstration of their dissatisfaction with the actions of government. The guerrillas are largely to blame for spilling of more than 1.2 million crude oil barrels. Their main intention is to get publicity, nationalization of the oil industry and for rural development. They have also requested to have increase in spending of social programs in the regions with oil production. The guerrilla pipeline bombing has polluted approximately 370 miles of rivers, creeks, and fouled 12,500 acres, which range from tropical wetlands to Andean watersheds (Barry, 2007: 67).

Kazakhstan

Petroleum scientists have indicated that the region of Caspian Sea comprise of the largest oil and natural gas reserve globally, behind the Siberia and Gulf Region. For decades western firms have longed to get the chance of exploiting the former Soviet empire's large oil reserves; this

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possibility has been allowed by the end in cold war. There are various environmental concerns, which result from oil drilling in Caspian region, together with the already well articulated effects from the real drilling. The major issue concerning exploration of oil in the region is on how the oil can be delivered to the world markets. The Caspian sea area is landlocked, therefore, the only means of efficiently transporting the oil to world markets is through pipeline. This challenge affects the success of oil drilling in this region.

However, the region is not without its own political mayhem. Development of oil fields in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan and present exceptional difficulties and extracting the oil from the region has proved to be more strenuous. Oil analysts and Chevron have noted a pipeline is imperative for justification of increased production (Arne, 2010: 183). Nonetheless, an increased output would be economically irrational unless there exists a an efficient transport method. The route to be used by the pipeline proves to be the hardest aspect of the entire issue considering that there exist various political hot spots in the region making the pipeline a hard suggestion.

Heavy tanker traffic via the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf has already alerted states concerning the pollution effect of these activities. Increased production in the Caspian Region will amplify these aforementioned effects irrespective of the pipeline route adopted. However, the Caspian region is unique in that the Caspian Sea is going up. It could possibly rise three meters in the next twenty years. This would result to immense environmental damage. The potential flooding in the region is more damaging to the environment on the coastal plains of the region. These regions form some of the significantly polluted areas in the former Soviet Unit (Palazuelos, & Fernandez, 2012: 27).

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Existing drilling of oil in the sea has become a main pollution cause. Baku Reports indicated that one can see a oily film on the surface of the sea. Another concern is the natural gas flaring; approximately 4.5 million cubic meter a day. Nonetheless, natural gas flares can be contained using the suitable modern technology (Jim, 2001: 25). Though the sea is less polluted as compared to the Black Sea, a lot need to be done to reduce the harmful environmental effects of oil drilling, together with the potential disastrous effects of the rising Caspian Sea.

General Analysis

The above case studies are all cases in which oil resources desire or increased production of oil resulted to adverse environmental effect. Specifically, the environmental effect, could be the resultant for conflict, terrorism, accidents and extraction (Ali, 2003). These cases form examples of situations where there was both intentional and unintentional damage on the environment.

The case of Ecuador, Columbia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan cases are all illustration of the way extraction and production of oil can directly damage the surrounding environment. There are instances of habitat and wildlife devastation through pollution including dumping of oil waste, and accidents like oil spills (Trevors, & Saier, 2011: 3). Despite the production of oil being performed by governments and private companies, the actual damage caused to the environment is unintentional. This is an incidence in which companies may be willing to use other forms energy sources; nonetheless, their overall organization is depended on production of oil as a business means (Richman, 2010: 2).

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The Ecuador case signifies the direct adverse effect that production of oil may have on human beings residing in a certain region. In this region many indigenous tribes have been eliminated as a result of exploration of oil. There ought to be a significant environmental and societal concern when an industry contaminates water together with land resources used by the population (Wolfaardt, et al 2009: 44). Despite more attention being needed on the wildlife destruction, pollution directly affecting the human beings health ought to be dealt with immediately (Bolitho, 2010).

The effects of oil pollution on human society have resulted to anti-government movements together with uprisings in various regions. Following the damaging impact caused to Indians in Ecuador's oil production, the Indians have protested against the government by resisting exploration of oil and agitating for rights to their ancestral lands (Joan, Beatriz & Federico, 2006: 205). There have been political uprisings resulting from environmental concerns. The Marxist guerrillas in Columbia have interrupted production of oil through terrorist activities, such kidnappings and bombings. These oil site attacks have resulted to a spill of over 1.3 million crude oil barrels (Legborsi 2004). In Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan the worry, regarding which oil route is to be used has stemmed from the fear that terrorism or political situation will result to pipeline disruptions.

Conclusion

From the various incidences of pollution and adverse environmental effect resulting from oil extraction, it is notable that oil companies need to be perceived as environmental vandals. They cause significant harm to the environment and those living in it. For instance, people and animals have been displaced from their habitats to pave way for exploration. Oil spills in water

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bodies, causes destruction of aquatic life. Similarly, oil spills on the land also results to destruction of vegetation and other habitats. Companies also clear vegetation in oil rich regions to create space for extraction. These areas become prone to adverse weather conditions resulting to soil erosion. Measures should therefore be taken to ensure that oil companies do not cause harm to the environment.

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