

December 4, 2014

Catherine Novelli  
Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Under Secretary Novelli,

On behalf of communities around the world victimized by decades of irresponsible oil production, we write to express our outrage at Chevron's selection as a finalist for the Secretary's Award for Corporate Excellence.

The announcement for the award states that it is intended to recognize companies that are "leaders in socially responsible activities." Chevron's record is exactly the opposite. In communities from Ecuador to Nigeria, Kazakhstan to Angola, and even in its hometown of Richmond, California, Chevron has repeatedly proved to be an irresponsible corporate citizen, disregarding fundamental human rights, degrading the environment, and generally showing contempt for efforts at regulation, transparency, and accountability.

Even in Burma, where Chevron is being nominated for its humanitarian work, its record is shameful. For many years Chevron was the only major U.S. investor in Burma, with the Yadana gas pipeline project, which led to countless human rights abuses including rampant forced labor. A 2000 U.S. report stated: "Allegations of forced labor and other human rights abuses in the area emerged even before construction on the pipeline started. . . . evidence suggests that Burmese nationals built the majority of support facilities for the pipeline and that the army had recruited forced laborers."

The Secretary's Award should go to a company that has displayed best practices in its operations around the world, not to one that has thrown a few dollars at unrelated healthcare and economic development projects in order to burnish its image.

For thousands of communities around the world, giving this award to Chevron would add an insult from the U.S. Government to the injury already inflicted by the oil company.

Sincerely,

Crude Accountability

Amazon Watch

Global Exchange

NorthStar Asset Management, Inc.

CT Citizen Action Group

CREDO

Food and Water Watch

Center for Environmental Health

Pachamama Alliance

Oil Change International

Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Project Maje

Rights Action

ClimateMama

Media Alliance

US Campaign for Burma

Corporate Accountability International

Earthworks

CounterCorp

Rainforest Action Network

Communities for a Better Environment

Environmental Rights Action

Green Alliance Nigeria

Host Communities Network of Nigeria

The Sierra Club

International Accountability Project

Sunflower Alliance

350.org Bay Area

EarthRights International

Cc: Derek Mitchell  
U.S. Ambassador to Burma

Jon Finer  
Chief of Staff to the Secretary of State

Charles Rivkin  
Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs

Tom Malinowski  
Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

Daniel Russell  
Assistant Secretary for East Asia and Pacific Affairs

Scot Marciel  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Laura Kirkconnell  
Director, Office of Economic Policy Analysis and Public Diplomacy

Melike Yetken  
Senior Advisor on Corporate Responsibility, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs

Machut Shishak  
Economic Officer, U.S. Embassy Rangoon

Sarah Hutchison  
Burma Desk Officer, Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs

Stacey May  
Burma Desk Officer, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor