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**PUBLIC STATEMENT
Myanmar and Premier Oil**

Amnesty International is astonished that Premier Oil, in response to a call by the UK Government that it withdraw from Myanmar, has reportedly said in a news wire story that the company's ongoing dialogue with Amnesty International "had made a significant difference in Myanmar." The organization does not believe that this is the case. In fact, the human rights situation there continues to be extremely grave.

As a part of the human rights organization's ongoing policy to engage with all actors in society, Amnesty International has contact with Premier Oil, just as it has similar contacts with other major international corporations. During these meetings, the organization has stressed the sustained, grave human rights crisis in Myanmar.

The Myanmar Army continues to seize civilians for forced labour duties throughout the country. Hundreds of thousands of ethnic minority civilians have been forcibly removed from their ancestral lands without compensation. Some 1,500 political prisoners remain in Myanmar jails in appalling conditions, and torture remains widespread in Myanmar's secret military intelligence centres.

Amnesty International calls upon companies such as Premier, which believe that their presence in Myanmar can effect positive change, to demonstrate what effective improvements their presence has brought about. Amnesty does not endorse such a presence.

Furthermore, the organization has no position on any company investing anywhere. It neither supports nor opposes punitive economic measures against countries with grave human rights violations. However, it expects companies, like all actors in a society, to be responsible in upholding human rights in the countries in which they operate.

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**For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London,
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