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'Vedanta Perspective' falls far short of answering human rights concerns

A report by UK-based mining giant Vedanta responding to human rights criticisms of the company's project to expand a refinery and a joint venture to mine bauxite in Orissa, India has prompted Amnesty International to flag the gaps between the company's assertions and the reality on the ground.

"The real test of Vedanta's performance is its human rights record on the ground. The recent evidence from communities in Orissa paints a picture of a company that is failing to address a plethora of human rights failings.

"Vedanta's performance falls far short of international standards for mining companies. It refuses to consult properly with affected communities and ignores the rights of indigenous peoples," said Amnesty International's South Asia team Researcher Ramesh Gopalakrishnan.

"The report *Vedanta's Perspective* glosses over most of the allegations that Amnesty International has raised and Vedanta needs to go much further to persuade its critics that it is really changing its approach. Vedanta needs a reality check on human rights – and pressure from investors could help deliver this."

"It is not just organisations like NGOs that are worried about Vedanta's bad practices - it is also Indian authorities such as the National Human Rights Commission which have investigated its operations in Orissa."

On Tuesday 28 August – the day of the Vedanta annual general meeting - Amnesty International will release a report which gives an update on the situation at Orissa and the ongoing negative impact of the company's commercial operations. The report will address the main points made by Vedanta in the report the company released today.

For further information or to organise an interview with Ramesh Gopalakrishnan, please contact Amnesty International's press office on +44 (0)207 413 5566 or email press@amnesty.org