



## JARINGAN ADVOKASI TAMBANG (JATAM) Kalimantan Timur

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### PRESS RELEASE

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## **West Seno Begins Spreading Disaster for Community**

The West Seno Project, hailed by Unocal as bringing in revenues of Rp 1 trillion for East Kalimantan in the future, has already begun to spread disaster for the environment and community in and around the Tangjung Santan shore, with an oil spill occurring at the Ranggas 6 well, approximately 75 kilometers out into the Makassar Strait. ( as reported in the Kaltim Post, 27 September 2002 ).

The oil spill occurred on September 5, 2002, but Unocal only announced to the public about the spill on September 27, 2002. Almost one month has passed since Unocal provided the public with information on the oil spill. It is apparent that Unocal is not only late in providing information but they are also guilty of deliberately covering up the oil spill problem. Does the community have to react to the impacts of the oil spill before Unocal acts? It is clear that the effect of the oil spill like this will impact the community and environment, as well as the Seno project that up until now has not carried out a proper environmental impact analysis consultation that involves the local community.

Tommy Kartawidjaya, Vice President of Communication Operation Support at Unocal, has stated that Unocal is committed to Indonesian environment and community. When in fact this statement is a lie with respect to what is actually occurring in the communities impacted by Unocal in Marangkayu. The last thirty years of Unocal's operations in East Kalimantan have caused several problems for the communities situated around Unocal's operations, Rapaklama, Marangkayu and Terusan. Unocal has caused hardship for the community, environmental destruction and human rights violations that up until now have yet to be resolved. Impacts and violations include :

1. **Destruction of the community's rice fields**, Approximately 417,5 hectares of community's rice fields were destroyed in 1998. The impacts on harvest are still being felt today by the Rapak Lama community. Based on harvest data results in August 2002, farmers were only able to produce 220 Kg – 968 Kg/hectares. It is important to note that in 1989 Rapak Lama had been known for its large harvest production in all of East Kalimantan, with average results of 5 – 7 tons per hectare. Based on field data, there has been a decline in harvest results recorded in August 2002 as compared to the year 1989, with an estimated 85 % decline;
2. **Death of 13 cows belonging to the local communities. In 1993, 13 cows died because of leaching from Unocal's oil Tangkit while also impacting the local drinking water;**
3. **Destruction of community ponds.** Polluted community ponds have caused massive shrimp kills that has become worse in the last two years. Reports from August 2000 to now, show that the Terusan harvesters have been impacted;
4. **Marine life including fish threaten by oil and chemical toxins as a result of Unocal's operations.** Mangrove and nipah trees along the coast have been killed as a result of pollution. Fish caught carry an odor because of the oil pollution and thus make it hard for the fish to be marketed;
5. **A study report done shows the occurrence of contamination including the results of Unocal's environmental evaluation study.** A contamination study done by the National Department of Health in Samarinda and the results of a SUCOFINDO



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Samarinda analysis document Unocal's waste problems in 2000 (News reports, 11 February 2000).

6. **Forced land and cultivation takeovers** without dialogue/agreement from the community and inadequate compensation in return for their losses since 1970;
7. **UNOCAL BRA waste management system has yet to receive approval from the Central Environmental Impact Control Body (Bapedal).**
8. **Human rights violations occurring on October 8, 2000.** Citizens carrying out a protest action against Unocal and the government became victims of shooting and violence perpetrated by the security forces. Twenty-three people were injured, seven people were shot and sixteen others were seriously injured from being beaten and stepped on;

Based on the considerations mentioned above, the **MINING ADVOCACY NETWORK (JATAM) EAST KALIMANTAN**, state the following position:

1. Unocal has deliberately covered up the oil spill problem from the public that will impact the environment and community.
2. The West Seno Project has violated the law because the local community has never been involved in the consultation of the environmental impact analysis;
3. The West Seno Project will become a threat for the survival of the community and environmental conservation, which is evident from the last thirty years of Unocal's operations in East Kalimantan. Injustice and environmental destruction will be experienced by the community;
4. JATAM Kaltim demand that Unocal immediately resolve all issues with the community impacted by Unocal including Kampung Rapaklama, Marangkayu and Terusan;
5. JATAM Kaltim demand that the government stop the West Seno Project until the problems with the impacted communities of Rapaklama, Marangkayu and Terusan are resolved;

**Samarinda, 27 September 2002**  
**MINING ADVOCACY NETWORK**  
**JARINGAN ADVOKASI TAMBANG**  
**(JATAM)**  
**EAST KALIMANTAN**

**Baharuddin Demmu**  
**Coordinator**