**BP response regarding workers’ rights abuses in Azerbaijan**

*Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited BP to respond to the following item:*

- *«*Report for 2016 on Evaluation of the implementation of legislation on labor, economic, social and civil rights of Azerbaijan’s oil sector*», Oil-Workers’ Rights Protection Organization (OWRO), January 2017*

http://nhmt-az.org/frontend/pages/human-rights-inner.php?id=134

*In response, BP sent the following statement:*

**1.    Cases with regard to  rights of 2 employees during redundancies**

Our response

BP’s decisions with regard to redundancies and their implementation process are made strictly in compliance with BP’s Code of Conduct, as well as with the relevant legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including Article 77 of the Labour Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In Azerbaijan as well as elsewhere, BP complies with and shows respect for the local laws.

Human rights are an important element in BP’s approach to responsible business conduct. BP has commitment to respecting fundamental rights at work, through its Group Business and Human Rights policy which articulates its commitment to respecting internationally recognised human rights as set out in the International Bill of Human Rights and the International Labour Organisation’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

2.      **Trade unions in BP’s partner companies**

Our response

While we work closely and operate on behalf of a group of partner companies in various projects in Azerbaijan, BP is only able to comment for itself in this matter.  We have our own Code of Conduct and operate strictly in compliance with the policies set out in the Code. BP has created a work environment of mutual trust and respect for its multinational staff and will continue to pursue this policy during its long-term presence in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

**3. Environmental impact of our operations**

Our response

In all countries where BP operates it remains committed to protecting the environment.

In Azerbaijan, BP has been operating safely, efficiently, reliably and environmentally responsibly for 25 years. Our environmental performance and activities are regulated by relevant local legislation, including the Production Sharing Agreements. In addition, BP applies a consistent and high set of specific standards for operations in the Caspian Sea and works closely with the relevant regulatory bodies to minimize the potential impact of its operations on the environment.

Through our joint efforts with our key stakeholders here, we have found the right solutions to some environmentally challenging issues such as reduction of associated gas flaring, responsible management of waste and produced water.

**4.            Deepwater Gunashli missing person incident**

Our response

BP, as operator of the Azeri-Chirag-Deepwater Gunashli field development, responded promptly and professionally to the incident which took place on one of the offshore platforms which it operates in the Caspian. We issued an official public statement to express our deep regret with regard to the incident and later announced that we had recovered the missing person’s body from the seabed.

Since the person was not a BP employee and neither his employer company nor his family had authorised BP to talk on their behalf, it would have been inappropriate for BP to disclose his name. As to the cause of the incident, this was the subject of an investigation by the law-enforcement authorities of Azerbaijan. For this reason all similar enquiries to BP at that time and later were directed to the relevant law-enforcement authorities.