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**We welcome our readers in Macau, China**

## BP CEO Hayward gets earful at Congressional hearings, accused of 'stonewalling'

### Says he's "devastated with this accident"; Britain's PM goes to bat for BP

WASHINGTON-- BP's chief executive officer Tony Hayward's testimony before the House investigation subcommittee was no love-in. Lawmakers-- Republicans and Democrats alike-- repeatedly questioned his ability to manage BP and asked why safety measures were not implemented prior to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

He was also accused him of being ill-prepared for congressional testimony and not cooperating with an investigation into the spill. "I'm not stonewalling," Hayward told a House investigations committee Thursday. He said he was "deeply sorry" for the spill now in its eighth week. "I understand the seriousness of the situation, the frustrations and fears that continue to be voiced," he said.

In opening statements short on bluster and long on details, lawmakers outlined a series of steps BP took in the lead-up to the explosion that appeared to put cost over safety.

Questions focused on the well's design and measures taken while BP was attempting to seal it before it exploded. "Did BP make a fundamental misjudgment in using one long piece of well casing instead of many shorter pieces, as other oil companies said they would have done?" asked Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif. Waxman produced transcripts from BP's engineering staff stating the single casing was "unlikely to be successful." He said BP went ahead with it anyway to save \$7 to \$10 million.

Hayward said he didn't make those design choices as CEO. "I wasn't involved in any of the decision-making," Hayward told Waxman, adding that it was clear there were discussions of the subject among the well's engineering team.

#### 'Kicking the can down the road'

"What's clear to me," Waxman interrupted, "is that you don't want to answer our questions. You're not taking responsibility. You're kicking the can down the road and acting like you have nothing to do with this company. I find that irresponsible."

Hayward said he "was not prepared to draw conclusions about this accident until the investigation is complete. Criticizing Hayward



for his lack of answers became a theme of the meeting.

Rep Joe Barton, R-Texas, surprised members when he accused the White House of conducting a "\$20 million shakedown" by requiring BP to establish a fund to compensate those hurt by the spill. "I'm ashamed of what happened in the White House Wednesday, said Barton. He also apologized to BP.

Later, Barton retracted his apology to BP and said he was very sorry for using the term "shakedown." Barton has received at least \$100, 470 in political contributions from oil and gas interests since the beginning of 2009, the second-highest amount among all the committee members.

Barton was referring to BP's agreement to put the \$20 billion into an independently managed account to cover economic damages related to the oil spill. President Barack Obama, who met with the company's top executives Wednesday, called it "an

important step toward making the people of the Gulf Coast whole again." The fund will be run by Kenneth Feinberg, a senior White House lawyer who handled compensation payments for victims of the September 11 attacks.

Obama also announced that BP had voluntarily agreed to establish a \$100 million fund to compensate laid-off oil right workers affected by the six-month drilling moratorium.

#### BP shares fall

BP shares have almost halved in value in the past two months as a result of the oil spill and the political storm that followed in the United States. It is one of the most widely held shares in Britain, and the fall has hit many pension funds and investors. In a further blow to investors, the company announced that it would stop its dividend payments --traditionally among the most generous of all major companies--for at least the rest of the year.

First-quarter dividends due on Monday, have also been scrapped as the company attempts to raise the funds necessary for the compensation fund. Last week, Prime Minister David Cameron discussed BP's problems with its chairman, Carl-Henric Svanberg, who asked him to help ease U.S. pressure on the firm.

On Wednesday, in his strongest show of support since the oil began leaking two months ago, Cameron said the company should not be exposed to a string of future damage claims. He said BP needs a level of certainty that there won't be claims entertained that are three or four times removed from the oil spill. "This shouldn't be going after BP for the sake of it."

But Obama made it clear the BP's payments could be just the start, warning that the company could still face lawsuits from individuals and American states.

The well explosion killed 11 workers. Millions of gallons of oil are still spewing into the Gulf in what some are calling the worst environmental disaster in American history.

## American hunting bin Laden detained in Pakistan

### Said he was on a mission from God

ISLAMABAD-- American construction worker Gary Brooks Faulkner's plan to kill al-Qaida's Osama bin Laden has been put on hold.

Faulkner, 51, has been detained in the mountains of Pakistan after authorities found him in a forest carrying a sword, a pistol and night vision equipment Sunday. Faulkner claimed Wednesday that he was obeying an order from God to avenge the Sept. 11, 2001 attack in New York City, Pakistan officials said.

Catching bin Laden was Faulkner's passion, his brother Scott Faulkner, a physician in Fort Morgan, Colo., said at a press conference Tuesday. A devout Christian with a lengthy arrest record, Faulkner has been to Pakistan at least six times, learned some of the local language, and even grew a long beard to blend in, relatives and acquaintances said.

Faulkner, of Greeley, Col., arrived June 3 in Bumburate, Pakistan, and stayed in a hotel. He was assigned a police guard, as is common for foreigners remote parts of Pakistan. When he checked out without informing police, they began looking for him,

according to the top police officer in the Chitral region, Mumtaz Ahmad Kahn.

Khan said Faulkner was trying to cross into the nearby Afghan region of Nuristan, one of several rumored hiding places for bin Laden along the rugged Afghan-Pakistan border.

Pakistan's military and intelligence establishment generally deny the possibility that bin Laden is hiding somewhere along the Pakistan-Afghan border. Western intelligence agencies don't agree.

Faulkner served seven years in a Colorado prison in the 1980s for burglary and theft. Since 1981, he has been arrested at least 10 times on charges ranging from traffic violations to domestic violence, according to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

Scott Faulkner, 43, said they did not grow up in an intensely religious family. He said his brother always carried a Bible with him but would not proselytize in a Muslim country. A few times, he reached caves he thought could have been used by bin-Laden, evidenced by guards carrying walkie-talkies high atop remote mountains, he said.



Faulkner's sister, Deanna Faulkner, said her brother suffers from kidney disease that has left him with only 9 percent kidney function. She said he usually gets dialysis every three days, but can go up to two weeks without it.

Scott Faulkner said if his brother was successful he planned to use the \$25 million bounty on bin Laden to help poor people in Nicaragua where he has helped to build houses and churches.

He added, "A lot of kids grow up and say, 'I want to be Rambo', you know? Well, he is."