United Nations warns of abandoned oil tanker near Yemen's coast



United Nations, July 17 (RHC)-- The United Nations is warning of a looming environmental disaster in the Red Sea, where a stricken oil tanker has been abandoned off Yemen's coast since the start of civil war five years ago.

The vessel is loaded with more than a million barrels of crude oil — four times as much oil as spilled from the Exxon Valdez in 1989.

U.N. Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock said Wednesday a spill would directly affect 1.6 million Yemenis. Lowcock said: "Essentially every fishing community along Yemen's west coast would see their livelihoods collapse and would suffer substantial economic losses. About 90% of people in these communities already need humanitarian assistance."



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