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US crude oil prices continued to fall yesterday, diving below \$40 a barrel to their lowest level since 2009, amid a global market sell-off sparked by fears of China's slowdown. US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for October delivery tumbled by \$1.39 to \$39.06 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange around 13:05GMT. On Friday, the contract had slipped briefly below \$40 for the first time since February 2009. Brent, the international benchmark, also sank sharply in London trade to its lowest level since early 2009, "We're seeing equity markets in Asia implode and there definitely is a lot of risk-off sentiment," said Bart Melek at TD Securities.