



## The Conflict-Free Campus Initiative

### *Make your Campus Conflict-Free*

The Conflict-Free Campus Initiative is a nation-wide campaign to build the consumer voice for conflict-free electronics – cell phones, laptops, and other devices that do not finance war in eastern Congo. It draws on the power of student leadership and activism to encourage university officials and stakeholders to commit to measures that pressure electronics companies to take responsibility for the minerals in their supply chains, which have been contributing to the ongoing conflict in eastern Congo. **By raising our collective voice as consumers, we can actually bring about a shift in corporate and government policy and help bring peace to Congo.**

**THE ISSUE:** Conflict has engulfed eastern Congo for over a decade in a silent war. According to the International Rescue Committee, the conflict has already claimed the lives of over 5 million civilians and is estimated to have a mortality rate of 45 thousand per month resulting from famine, preventable disease, displacement, killings, and sexual violence.

The root causes of Congo's conflict include long standing ethnic tensions, a Congolese state absent in protecting its own citizens, and the proliferation of numerous armed militia groups who target civilian populations in remote regions where rule of law is weak. One particularly important driver of the ongoing conflict lies in the economic incentive fueled by a multi-million dollar trade in conflict minerals - four to be exact: tin, tungsten, tantalum, or the 3Ts, and gold that are found in almost every consumer electronics product.

Armed groups earn hundreds of millions of dollars per year by trading these four minerals. This money enables the militias to purchase large numbers of weapons and continue their campaign of brutal violence against civilians, with some of the worst abuses occurring in mining areas - including the systematic use of rape and torture to destroy the social fabric of communities. The majority of these minerals eventually wind up in electronic devices such as cell phones, portable music players, and computers. This means that the very devices which have become central to our communication, business infrastructure and social engagement could also be fueling a conflict that is still claiming the lives of thousands as we speak.

**THE PATHWAY TO PEACE:** Sustainable peace in eastern Congo can only be realized through a multi-dimensional response from international, regional and national actors. There are a range of complex issues at play, and the path to peace must include comprehensive security sector reform, resettlement of refugees and internally displaced civilians, the dismantling of rebel groups, and accountability for perpetrators. However, none of these long term strategies can be feasible or meaningful without removing the economic incentives to wage war.

A certification scheme that eliminates the market for conflict minerals and formalizes the mining sector in eastern Congo is essential. As the illicit trade becomes less profitable, peace becomes a more attractive paradigm. This shift of government and international economic policy opens the space for essential reforms including accountability for state and non-state actors involved in the conflict.

In recent history, we have seen precedence for the implementation of mining certification regimes. A decade ago, wars in Sierra Leone, Angola, and Liberia were being fueled by the illegal trade in blood diamonds. With a comprehensive response by the international community which included setting up a certification system, the conflict diamond trade was significantly reduced and these countries now experience a degree of peace and stability as a result. The obvious parallel to the conflict minerals campaign is that when key stakeholders come together to address the causes of violence instead of just treating the symptoms, that peace is possible to achieve.

By creating a system to trace, audit, and certify their products as conflict free, companies will contribute to choking off funds in their supply chain that find their way to armed groups and military units in Congo. This will not only reduce the resources available to these groups, who are among the worst human rights violators in the conflict, it will also create an incentive for minerals traders to reform their business practices and contribute to a more legitimate trade, one that would deliver more benefits to the Congolese people.

**RECENTLY PASSED LEGISLATION LENDS US LEGITIMACY:** The recent passage of provisions on conflict minerals from eastern Congo in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform act has brought unprecedented attention to the linkages between trade in minerals crucial to consumer electronics products and the ongoing conflict in DRC.

The new provision requires companies who report to the Securities and Exchanges Commission, or SEC, and manufacture products that contain the 3Ts and gold to trace and disclose whether these minerals originated in Congo or a neighboring country. If a company finds that minerals used in their products do originate in Congo or one of its neighboring countries they then must report on the measures they have taken to exercise due diligence on ensuring their supply chain does not either directly or indirectly fund armed groups controlling mines in eastern Congo.

Until now, companies have relied upon assurances from their suppliers that they do not purchase conflict minerals, without independent verification. With this law, the burden of proof shifts: now companies must find out where their suppliers actually source from. Most importantly, companies need to provide independent verification of these steps through an independent private sector audit of their reporting.

Congress has taken a first step, but we have a long way to go toward ending the illicit conflict minerals trade in Congo. Specifically, this legislation currently only requires companies to trace and audit their supply chains, but does not establish either a certification requirement or penalties for companies who source from conflict areas. Given the negative publicity likely to accompany any public reporting of conflict minerals supply chains, one route for companies to take is to simply not source from the Congo or its neighbors at all. While this embargo may help clean up supply chains in the short term, it won't solve the problem in the long term. Minerals smuggled out of the Congo are smelted with non-conflict minerals which mean that without a

certification scheme in place there is simply no guarantee of our products being conflict-free. Furthermore, Congo is home to a substantial supply of the world's tin, tungsten and tantalum, which means that eventually the need for these minerals will reemerge and our supply chains will be tainted once more.

**STUDENT LEADERS ARE ALREADY PAVING THE WAY:** The movement to end the violence in eastern Congo begs for the same leadership that student activists demonstrated through their divestment campaigns addressing the genocide in Darfur.

In Spring 2010, thanks to the activism of STAND and student leaders, Stanford University took the lead in raising the voice of academic institutions speaking out against the conflict in Congo by passing a resolution that commits their full support to corporate or shareholder led measures that would result in consumer electronics becoming conflict-free products.

Given the status of universities and colleges as thought leaders, corporate account holders, investors and educators, Stanford's voice as an institution acknowledging and publicly committing to the principle of conflict-free products has been a powerful and influential one. Stanford's move is precisely the type of initial action that will help push for a system to trace, audit, and certify companies' supply chains to guarantee conflict-free products. No doubt Stanford's actions also helped pressure Congress to act as well.

**YOUR VOICE:** While comprehensive action by the US Government and other international actors to address the conflict in eastern Congo will be essential to long term stability, it is critically important to focus our voice and use those levers which will contribute most immediately to end the violence.

The direct link between war in Congo and the electronics we use every day gives us enormous power as consumers to demand change. By encouraging your university to publicly support the conflict-free movement, you will not only send a message that you as an individual consumer demand that your electronics products are conflict-free but also demonstrate that demand through a collective, institutional voice. Universities are also a large client for most electronics companies and represent a large section of the buyers market for consumer electronics. Additionally, the campaign will reach the influential decision makers who sit on the boards of universities and colleges across the country - many of whom have relationships and significant investments in these companies.

We all use computers, cell phones, and other consumer electronics. This campaign is not about boycotting electronics, but about using that very technology and consumer purchasing power to demand conflict-free products and take away the fuel for some of the worst violence in the world in the process.

**Since we are the end consumers of Congo's tin, tungsten, tantalum, and gold, we can demand for our products to be certified conflict-free and that is leverage worth using.**



## The Conflict-Free Campus Initiative

### *Mapping Your Resolution*

There are multiple routes that students can take in getting their university to take a powerful stand on conflict minerals. The Enough Project has outlined a range of three possible outcomes and their corresponding impact on ending the trade in conflict minerals – from shifting procurement policies to issuing a shareholder resolution to making a strong statement of support for the movement – all of which will go a long way in supporting the effort to remove the economic incentive fueling violence in eastern Congo.

For a step-by-step framework for mobilizing your campus, see STAND's [Conflict-Free Campus advocacy guide](#).

#### **What is the value of a university taking action on conflict minerals?**

As advocates on your campus, you can achieve the status of becoming one of a handful of leaders at universities pushing the movement to purchase electronics and other items conflict-free. The value of your contribution is enormous. Through reaching an agreement with your administration to make a statement or adopt a policy regarding conflict minerals, you ensure that the tuition funds of your entire student body are being used responsibly and not indirectly enabling or contributing to violence and conflict in eastern Congo. Further, continuing to advocate for this issue throughout the United States and around the globe is of critical importance. Putting this issue front and center on your campus not only contributes to the cause of responsible consumption on campus, but also raises awareness in your community off campus, hopefully spurring action by those outside the university.

#### **How would this help end the conflict minerals trade from Congo?**

Putting pressure on those parties responsible for perpetuating the supply chain of conflict minerals from end-product to mine extraction is the best way to get the market to stop buying conflict minerals. While multiple industries, including aerospace, automotive, medical equipment and banks also use conflict minerals in their products, students and universities have immense power to influence electronics companies because they are highly coveted individual and institutional consumers of computers, lab equipment, and other electronics products. By sending a clear signal to major electronics companies, you and your university will send shockwaves through the supply chain and create a financial incentive for companies to perform their due diligence to reach a market that is demanding in conflict-free products.

#### **Why do we think trace-audit-certify is important?**

Ending the conflict in eastern Congo is the best way to help the Congolese people recover from more than a decade of suffering and violence. A critical aspect of this effort is severing the link between the minerals trade and the armed groups committing atrocities in Congo. Transparency and accountability are crucial to make any progress toward a legitimate supply chain that is able to contribute to the positive development of the region. A framework that includes the concepts of trace, audit, and certify is the first step. By creating a system that will eliminate funding mechanisms for militia groups and armed factions, the United States is paving the way for legitimate and sustainable resource management that will benefit the Government of the DRC, the Congolese people, private sector stakeholders, and concerned consumers.

- **Trace:** Companies must determine the precise sources of their minerals. We should support efforts to develop rigorous means of ensuring that the origin and production volume of minerals are transparent.
- **Audit:** Companies should have detailed examinations of their mineral supply chains conducted to ensure that a) minerals are not sourced from conflict mines; and b) no illegal taxes/bribes are paid to armed groups in Congo. Credible third parties should conduct or verify these audits.
- **Certify:** For consumers to be able to purchase conflict-free electronics made with Congolese minerals, a certification scheme that builds upon the lessons of the Kimberley Process will be required. Donor governments and industry should provide financial and technical assistance to galvanize this process.

### What actions could your campus take that would have an impact on conflict minerals?

1. **Best option:** A change in university policy for buying computers and electronics (procurement policy)

The most powerful step that a college can take is to pass a resolution regarding their intent to purchase conflict-free electronics or to change the procurement policy. Universities spend hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions, each year on computers, lab equipment, and other electronics. Electronics companies pay significant attention to the contracts they have with universities, which gives campuses substantial influence as companies compete with each other for their business.

By making a statement or passing a resolution expressing favorability for conflict-free products, you can help create a new standard for the companies to meet as well as a competitive atmosphere and financial incentives for policies to be enacted more quickly. Even if whether a product is conflict free is just one factor in procurement out of many, it will help move the companies in the right direction.

Some examples of possible resolutions or policies regarding procurement of conflict-free electronics products include:

- Committing to buying conflict-free when it is available
- Prioritizing companies that are doing more toward tracking their supply chains
- Making conflict-free a priority criteria when picking new electronics vendors

2. **Second best option:** Shareholder resolution

As the managers of large endowments and investment portfolios, colleges and universities can make powerful statements by passing resolutions or policies related to their financial practices.

In the spring of 2010, Stanford University became the first institution to adopt a policy on conflict minerals using the approach of proxy voting guidelines. Essentially, this committed that Stanford would vote their shares in favor of any shareholder resolution that was introduced on the issue with companies in which they hold stock.

In addition to proxy voting guidelines, a conflict-free campus campaign can also push for the college or university to actually take the lead and file a shareholder resolution on the issues with any electronics company they are invested in.

Whether the Board of Directors (or equivalent) of your college/university adopt a policy or make a statement, each of these shareholder options has a positive impact and will help move electronics companies in the right direction regarding conflict minerals. While a set of proxy voting guidelines like the one Stanford passed is a great first step, the ideal option in the investment track would be to draft and file a shareholder resolution on the issue. This will provide financial motivation for companies to adopt better policies regarding conflict minerals by demonstrating that there are financial rewards and punishments depending on their position.

### **3. Third option: General support statement**

A general statement of support for conflict-free products could take a variety of different forms but is essentially a non-binding statement of support or recognition of the overall issue. While it falls short of mandating institutional responsibility, it is a great first step in a campaign to make your campus conflict-free and will be noticed by companies. Colleges represent a market for both institutional contracts as well as a highly coveted demographic of young adults for companies, and thus companies will pay attention to the statements of institutions with which they have business relationships. A statement would also demonstrate that the conflict-free campus movement is growing.

A general statement support might look like the following examples:

- GOOD: "XX College/University supports the movement for conflict-free electronics products."
- BETTER: "As an institution making significant annual investments in electronics products, XX College/University calls on electronics companies to perform due diligence and clean up their supply chains by working toward removing conflict minerals in their products."
- BEST: "XX College/University is aware and concerned about the crisis taking place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and recognizes the role of conflict minerals as one of the primary drivers for this unspeakable violence. As an institution that makes significant annual investments in electronics products that likely contain these minerals, we realize our own responsibility and indirect link to the situation. We call on all electronics companies with whom we do business to clean up their supply chains and will consider future policies that this institution can adopt to help combat the problem."

Divestment of companies is not encouraged at this time – though this could potentially be an effective tactic down the road once company policies and the conflict minerals trade become more transparent.

Given the status of universities and colleges as thought leaders, corporate account holders, investors and educators, an institution's voice acknowledging and publicly committing to the principle of conflict-free products will be powerful and influential. Regardless of where the resolution falls within these three possible outcomes, you and your university will be sending a strong signal to electronics companies that there is strong demand for conflict-free electronics and helping to remove economic incentive fueling violence in eastern Congo.

The following background resources provide overview and in-depth analysis of the conflict in eastern Congo and the link between conflict minerals and the ongoing violence.



**Enough Project Reports & Field Dispatches**



**Other Reports**



**Multimedia**



**Movies & Documentaries**



**Opinion & News**



**Blogs**



**Books**

## Enough Project Reports & Field Dispatches

### [Field Dispatch: Behind the Ban - An Update from Eastern Congo](#)

***The Enough Project, October 22, 2010***

<http://www.enoughproject.org/publications/field-dispatch-behind-ban-update-congo>

Congolese President Joseph Kabila's sudden ban on mineral exports from three eastern provinces has left many observers in the region questioning the effectiveness of the directive. It has also reportedly made life difficult for experts at Congo's mining ministry in Kinshasa, who have been struggling with how to implement and enforce the ban.

### [Congo's Enough Moment: The Case for Conflict Minerals Certification and Army Reform](#)

***The Enough Project, October 19, 2010***

<http://www.enoughproject.org/publications/congos-enough-moment>

Enough Project Co-founder John Prendergast argues that growing international attention to Congo and widespread interest in conflict minerals has shined a spotlight on eastern Congo, opening a significant window for policy reform.

### [FAQ's About Conflict Minerals Regulations](#)

***Enough Said, August 19, 2010***

<http://www.raisehopeforcongo.org/news/faqs-about-conflict-minerals-regulations>

The recent passage of provisions on conflict minerals from eastern Congo in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act raises important questions about how it will be implemented, its potential unintended consequences, its linkages with other initiatives to curb resource-fueled conflict, and how it fits with wider peace-building efforts in the Congo.

### [Field Dispatch: Conflict Minerals Windfall for Armed Forces in Eastern Congo](#)

***The Enough Project and Fidel Bafilemba, August 4, 2010***

<http://www.enoughproject.org/publications/conflict-minerals-windfall-armed-forces-eastern-congo>

Whether within rebel groups and militias or the Congolese national army, senior commanders continue to benefit from Congo's lucrative mineral trade.

### [Digging in: Recent Developments on Conflict Minerals](#)

***The Enough Project, January 5, 2010***

<http://www.enoughproject.org/publications/digging-in-conflict-minerals>

Congo's mineral wealth continues to play a central role in the country's conflict dynamics. Despite the upsurge in displacement and atrocities during 2009, multinational companies continue to purchase minerals from the war zone.

### [From Mine to Mobile Phone: The Conflict Minerals Supply Chain](#)

***The Enough Project, November 10, 2009***

<http://www.enoughproject.org/publications/mine-mobile-phone>

Enough experts lead you down the path of the 3Ts—tin, tantalum, tungsten—and gold from the mines of Eastern Congo all the way to your cell phone.

## Other Reports

[No will, No Way: US-funded Security Sector Reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)  
**Oxfam America, October 2010**

[http://www.effectivepeacekeeping.org/sites/effectivepeacekeeping.org/files/10/Oxfam%20America\\_U.S.%20SSR%20in%20DRC.pdf](http://www.effectivepeacekeeping.org/sites/effectivepeacekeeping.org/files/10/Oxfam%20America_U.S.%20SSR%20in%20DRC.pdf)

[Stronger Women Stronger Nations: Amplifying the Voices of Women in Eastern Congo](#)

**Women for Women International, September 2010**

<http://www.womenforwomen.org/news-women-for-women/files/dr-congo-report-2010.pdf>

[Always on the Run: The Vicious Cycle of Displacement in Eastern Congo](#)

**Human Rights Watch, September 2010**

<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2010/09/14/always-run-0>

[Do No Harm: A Guide for Companies Sourcing from the DRC](#)

**Global Witness, August 2010**

[http://www.globalwitness.org/media\\_library\\_get.php/1406/1285687832/do\\_no\\_harm\\_global\\_witness.pdf](http://www.globalwitness.org/media_library_get.php/1406/1285687832/do_no_harm_global_witness.pdf)

[Mortality in the Democratic Republic of Congo: An Ongoing Crisis](#)

**International Rescue Committee, 2007**

[http://www.theirc.org/sites/default/files/migrated/resources/2007/2006-7\\_congomortalitysurvey.pdf](http://www.theirc.org/sites/default/files/migrated/resources/2007/2006-7_congomortalitysurvey.pdf)

## Multimedia

[Conflict Minerals: Stories from the Mouth of the Mine](#)

**Audio slideshow by Sasha Lezhnev**

<http://www.enoughproject.org/multimedia/conflict-minerals-stories-mouth-mine>

In November 2009, Enough Project consultant Sasha Lezhnev traveled to Congo to investigate the conflict minerals supply chain, beginning at the mouth of the mine. This is his story.

["Hello, I'm a Mac...and I've Got a Dirty Secret"](#)

**Spoof Video by Actor/activist Brooke Smith and cinematographer Steven Lubensky with The Enough Project**

<http://www.raisehopeforcongo.org/news/mac-pc>

Hello, I'm a Mac, and I'm helping fuel war in the Congo -- the deadliest war in the world. So are PCs, cell phones, digital cameras and other consumer electronics, for that matter. That's what Apple's famous "I'm a Mac ... And I'm a PC" ads don't tell you.

[Is There Blood On Your Laptop?](#)

**TIME**

[http://www.time.com/time/video/player/0,32068,594243401001\\_2013170,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/video/player/0,32068,594243401001_2013170,00.html)

Time.com explores the link between consumer electronics and the ongoing violence in Congo. Consumers can do their part by "letting companies know they don't want to contribute to the atrocities."

[Conflict Minerals 101](#)

**The Enough Project**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aF-sJgcoY20&feature=youtube\\_gdata](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aF-sJgcoY20&feature=youtube_gdata)

Enough's John Prendergast breaks it all down.

## Movies & Documentaries

### [Congo Gold Episode of '60 Minutes'](#)

**60 Minutes/CBS News**

<http://www.enoughproject.org/blogs/congo-gold-episode-60-minutes-nominated-emmy>

In consultation with Enough and Human Rights Watch, the “60 Minutes” crew investigated the trail of Congo’s conflict gold from rebel-held mines through Uganda and on to U.S. consumers. Nominated for an Emmy.

### [The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo](#)

**Lisa Jackson, HBO**

<http://www.hbo.com/documentaries/the-greatest-silence-rape-in-the-congo/index.html>

## Opinion & News

### [Conflict minerals close to home](#)

**Vanessa Rychlinski, The Michigan Daily, October 14, 2010**

<http://www.michigandaily.com/content/vanessa-rychlinski-conflict-minerals-congo>

### [Going Conflict-Free](#)

**George Hornedo, The Cornell Sun, October 6, 2010**

<http://cornellsun.com/section/opinion/content/2010/10/06/going-conflict-free>

### [Ashley Judd: Electronics fuel unspeakable violence](#)

**John Prendergast and Ashley Judd, CNN.com, September 30, 2010**

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/TRAVEL/09/30/ashley.judd.africa/index.html?iref=allsearch>

### [Stopping the Flow of Conflict Minerals from Congo to Your Cell Phone](#)

**Sasha Lezhnev and John Prendergast, CNN.com, August 3, 2010**

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/08/03/congo.conflict.minerals/index.html>

### [Death By Gadget](#)

**Nicholas Kristof, The New York Times, June 26, 2010**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/27/opinion/27kristof.html?\\_r=4](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/27/opinion/27kristof.html?_r=4)

### [No, Sexual Violence Is Not 'Cultural'](#)

**Lisa Shannon, The New York Times, June 25, 2010**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/26/opinion/26iht-edshannon.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/26/opinion/26iht-edshannon.html?_r=1)

### [Your Laptop's Bloody History](#)

**Sara Egozi and Liza Starr, Yale Daily News, November 8, 2010**

<http://www.yaledailynews.com/news/2010/nov/08/egozi-and-starr-your-laptops-bloody-history/>

### [A Light at the End of the Tunnel in Congo](#)

**John Prendergast, Foreign Policy.com, February 26, 2010**

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/02/26/a\\_light\\_at\\_the\\_end\\_of\\_the\\_tunnel\\_in\\_congo](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/02/26/a_light_at_the_end_of_the_tunnel_in_congo)

### [The New Blood Diamonds](#)

**John Prendergast, The Boston Globe, August 1, 2009**

[http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2009/08/01/the\\_new\\_blood\\_diamonds/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/08/01/the_new_blood_diamonds/)

## Blogs

### [What's Next for Congo's Youth?](#)

**Chloe Christman, Enough Said, November 11, 2010**

<http://www.enoughproject.org/blogs/what-next-congo-youth>

### [U.S. Students Launch Efforts to Rid Campuses of Congo Conflict Minerals](#)

**Laura Heaton, Enough Said, November 15, 2010**

<http://www.raisehopeforcongo.org/node/813>

### [Westminster College Paving Way to Be Conflict-Free](#)

**Gregory Rockson, Enough Said, October 22, 2010**

<http://www.raisehopeforcongo.org/node/789>

### [Reflections on a Visit to Eastern Congo](#)

**Sadia Hameed, Enough Said, October 21, 2010**

<http://www.raisehopeforcongo.org/node/787>

### [Building Momentum for a Conflict-Free Campus: Lessons from Stanford](#)

**Mia Newman, Enough Said, September 28, 2010**

<http://www.enoughproject.org/blogs/building-momentum-conflict-free-campus-lessons-stanford>

### [Secretary Clinton and Congo's Enough Moment](#)

**John Prendergast, Enough Said, September 23, 2010**

<http://www.enoughproject.org/blogs/secretary-clinton-and-congos-enough-moment>

### [When Will Enough Be Enough?](#)

**Aaron Hall, Enough Said, Aug 25, 2010**

<http://www.raisehopeforcongo.org/node/745>

### [A Long Path Toward Conflict Minerals Certification](#)

**Aaron Hall, Enough Said, August 18, 2010**

<http://www.enoughproject.org/blogs/long-path-toward-conflict-minerals-certification>

### [Podcast: Improving U.S. Strategy for Africa's Two Biggest Wars](#)

**Laura Heaton, links to The Brookings Institution, July 28, 2010**

<http://www.raisehopeforcongo.org/node/725>

## Books

*Africa's World War: Congo, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe*

**Gerard Prunier**

*The Enough Moment*

**John Prendergast with Don Cheadle**

*King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*

**Adam Hochschild**

*A Thousand Sisters*

**Lisa Shannon**