



FATAL TRANSACTIONS NEWSLETTER JULY 2005

NEWS

Kinshasa - May 9th to 13th

More transparency in the extractive industry in the DR Congo

To challenge poor governance, corruption, conflict and poverty stakeholders in DR Congo took the first step to create more transparency in transactions between government and companies within extractive industries.

More about this first [EITI-meeting](#)

Durban - 10th of June

South Africa: Corpse Awards

The South African civil society organisation groundWork organised, together with other South African CSOs, the Corpse Awards. The award condemns worst corporate practice in producing environmental and societal injustices.

More about the [Corpse Awards](#)

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

Congo wants to grow!

Access to natural resources is one of the causes of the disastrous war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which officially ended in 2002 and killed millions of people. In many parts of the country there is still a situation of impunity and lawlessness. Broederlijk Delen and 11.11.11 launched the campaign Congo wants to grow!, to support the country on its way to democracy, where everybody has a profit of the country's wealth.

More about [Congo wants to grow!](#) (2005-2006)

Diamond Matters

The Photo Museum in Antwerp exhibits Diamond Matters, a unique photo collection from Kadir van Lohuizen which shows the route of a diamond; from the alluvial mines in Africa, via diamond cutters in India, to the bourses in Antwerp and finally to the rich and the famous in London, New York and Amsterdam.

More about [Diamond Matters](#) (August 24th- September 18th 2005)

From our reporter in DR Congo

The government of National Unity of DR Congo and the transition to democracy was officially established on 30 June 2003. Rebel groups became political parties and their leaders became state officials. War is supposed to be over, but it's not. Willem Jaspers, working for BICC, tries to find out what transition means in practice.

More about [From our reporter in DR Congo](#) (June 2005)

Oil and the future of Sudan

The European Coalition on Oil in Sudan organises, together with Reconcile en Justice Africa, a conference on oil and the future of Sudan. Target groups are civil society, trade and industry, government and the international community. The conference will take place in Nairobi, Kenya on September 9th and 10th, and is coordinated by Pax Christi.

More information on the [conference](#) (September 9th-10th 2005)

TV Series on war economies

The documentary series War Economies aims to unravel the system of war economies, in order to make viewers aware of the problem and reveal their own complicity as consumers. War Economies will explore the possible solutions to transform war economies into economies that profit from their natural resources instead of suffer from them. More about [War Economies](#) (January 2006)

Youth Festival Berlin 05

From June 10-12 Medico International organised a youth festival in Berlin. Visitors could play the role of a diamond smuggler and encounter all the obstacles and dangers which come along with. In this cadre Medico also published a brochure for young readers about youth living in post war countries as DRC and Angola.

More about this brochure and the [Youth Festival](#) (June 10th-12th 2005)

REPORTS

Arms traffic in the Great Lakes region

IPIS, 2005-06-20

A report on the issue of illegal arms traffic in the Great Lakes region and the repercussions for the Belgian foreign policy. A specific study to the production of ammunition by a Belgian company for Tanzania, has been added.

(Language: Dutch, including a French summary)

Corporate social responsibility practices in the extractive industry in Zambia

Lungu, J. and C. Mulenga, 2005-05-13

A report for the Catholic Commission for Justice Development and Peace (CCJDP), the Development Education Community Project (DECOP) and the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) on the socio-economic situation and CSR practices in the Zambian Copperbelt.

DR Congo: arming the east

Amnesty International, 2005-07-05

Weapons and munitions have continued to flow into the Great Lakes Region and eastern DRC despite the peace agreements in 2002 and UN arms embargoes.

Drilling into Debt: the relationship between oil and debt

Kretzmann, S.; Nooruddin, I. / Oil Change International, 2005-06-30

This study examines the relationship in between oil and debt. It is based on data on 161 countries for the period 1991-2002, and collected further data on 88 developing countries for the period 1970-2000. Additional research has been undertaken, in order to shed light on the policies that led to the current situation. It contains also three case studies on Ecuador, Congo-Brazzaville and Nigeria

Lessons Not Learned: The Other Shell Report 2004

Advocates for Environmental Rights, Friends of the Earth, Milieudefensie, 2005-06-26

This third alternative Shell report, catalogues how despite commitments made in previous years, Shell still shows a total disregard for the environment and the rights of the people living near its operations in many parts of the world. The document reports on the situation in the Philippines, Sakhalin Island, Nigeria, South Africa, Brazil, Curacao, Ireland and the United States.

The Curse of Gold: DR Congo

Human Rights Watch, 2005-06-02

The lure of gold has fuelled massive human rights atrocities in the north-eastern region of the DRC. Local warlords and international companies are among those benefiting from access to gold rich areas while local people suffer from ethnic slaughter, torture and rape.

Under Mining Peace: Tin- the Explosive Trade in Cassiterite in Eastern DRC

Global Witness, 2005-06-30

The international demand for tin (cassiterite) has led to a US\$50 million trade in the metal in eastern DRC, a region where killings and human rights atrocities, including mass rape, are a daily reality for the Congolese population.

Fatal Transactions is an international campaign for awareness raising among consumers, opinion makers, politicians and industry on the crucial relation between trade in natural resources from African countries and continuation and escalation of armed conflicts and human rights violations. The overall objective is to end armed conflicts and human rights violations by drying up the financial resources and making sure that the revenues made out of the exploitation of natural resources are being used for the well-being of the population.

Fatal Transactions is carried out by six European NGOs; [Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa](#) (The Netherlands), [Medico International](#) (Germany), [Novib](#) (The Netherlands), [Broederlijk Delen](#) (Belgium), [11.11.11](#) (Belgium), [Intermon Oxfam](#) (Spain). Associate members are: [IPIS](#) (Belgium), [BICC](#) (Germany), [Pax Christi](#) (The Netherlands).

Subscribe? Mail to: ft@niza.nl

Please forward this newsletter to interested friends!