



Extraction in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Implementing Legislation to End Suffering

Thursday, October 14, 2010, 9:30-11:30 am

At The Ansari Africa Center
The Atlantic Council
1101 15th Street, NW, 11th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Forum Details:

The Democratic Republic of Congo has long been plagued by the scramble for its natural resources. Rebel-controlled mines in Eastern Congo have fueled violence as minerals have been sold to international companies and put into everything from jewelry to consumer electronics. The US Congress has just passed legislation to force electronics companies in the United States that use minerals from the Congo to keep public records of where their minerals come from and what steps they are taking to ensure that these are not conflict minerals. This legislation is a major step in reducing the harm that mining does in the eastern provinces of the Congo. Now the Great Lakes Policy Forum will explore the next steps: how should this legislation be enforced and what are the future courses of action and remaining obstacles in ending the proliferation of conflict minerals in the Congo?

As always, the Great Lakes Policy Forum is open to the public and all comments are on the record but not for attribution.

Speakers:

Assheton Stewart Carter

Senior Vice President Global Engagement and Strategy, Pact

Catherine Robinson

Director, High Tech Trade Policy and International Economic Affairs, National Association of Manufacturers

Peter Rosenblum

Professor, Columbia Law School

David Sullivan

Policy Manager, Enough Project

Moderator:

Scott Edwards

Director, Africa Advocacy and Science for Human Rights Program, Amnesty International

Bios

Assheton L. Stewart Carter, PhD

Dr. Stewart Carter is Senior Vice President Global Engagement and Strategy and on the executive team at Pact Inc. Pact is building a practice to link market demand with ethical production of precious minerals and works with jewelers, financial institutions, retailers and mining communities; artisanal, small, medium and large scale mining companies; and government agencies to unlock the potential of mining for human and economic development. For the past months, Pact has been working with ITRI, the trade association for the tin industry, and the comptoirs (trading houses/exporters) of the Kivus to design and put into place a system to trace minerals from Eastern DRC. Carter has dedicated the last 17 years to enabling business to be a catalyst for social transformation. He started his career as a stock broker in the City of London and moved to the US to lead the extractive industries practice at Conservation International. He has launched and led several initiatives engaging the oil, gas and mining industries, resulting in significant

biodiversity conservation and the setting of standards for corporate best practice. He conceived and developed the first fully traceable line of gold and diamond jewelry, Love,Earth, sold at Wal-Mart Inc., and recently worked with Cartier to source gold directly from a socially entrepreneurial "positive impact" mining operation in Honduras. He has advised a wide range of standard setting associations on environmental and social aspects of mineral extraction, including the International Council of Mining and Metals, Responsible Jewelry Council, Association of Responsible Mining, the International Finance Corporation, Inter American Development Bank, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as well as many companies in the mining and energy sectors. Carter has also teamed with senior management at Fortune 500 brand companies to lead environmental strategy formulation including Disney, Royal Caribbean, Marriot, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club and United Airlines.

Catherine Robinson

Catherine Robinson is a member of the National Association of Manufacturer's International Economic Affairs staff as Director of High Technology Trade Policy. In this position, Catherine is leading the NAM's initiative on export control modernization and achieving a balance between trade facilitation and national security. Catherine also leads the Customs and Border Coalition (CBC) and Coalition for Security and Competitiveness. In addition, Catherine handles a variety of other issues including customs and border issues, sanctions policy, conflict minerals, raw materials from China, international anti-trust policy, the Lacey Act, and the Information Technology Agreement from the WTO. In addition to the NAM, Catherine has worked for the U.S. Congress, Committee on Ways and Means, Trade Subcommittee, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva (UNCTAD), for AAEI and Global USA, Inc. Catherine has a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law and a B.A. in political science and communications from Texas A&M University. Catherine also serves on the Board of Directors the Organization of Woman in International Trade (OWIT) and Women in International Trade (WIIT). In 2010, Catherine was named as one of the top 30 Lobbyist in D.C. by The Hill.

Peter Rosenblum

Professor Peter Rosenblum joined the Columbia faculty in the fall of 2003. He came to Columbia from Harvard Law School, where he was associate director of the Human Rights Program and initiated the school's first seminar in human rights advocacy. Rosenblum has worked in international human rights since 1989, first for the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and then for a number of other organizations including Human Rights Watch, the International Human Rights Law Group, and the United Nations. He has extensive experience in Europe, Asia, and Africa, where he continues to pursue projects in advocacy and research. Rosenblum writes frequently on human rights and Africa and has published articles on the international criminal tribunals and human rights pedagogy.

David Sullivan

David Sullivan is Policy Manager with Enough. He most recently served as a Program Officer at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), where he worked on Pakistan's 2008 national elections. Previously he supported relief and development projects across Africa for the International Rescue Committee (IRC). During 2004-05, he served as Grants Manager for the IRC in Liberia. David received his MA in international relations, with concentrations in conflict management and international economics, from the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and graduated summa cum laude from Amherst College. He speaks proficient French.

Scott Edwards

Scott Edwards is the Director of the Africa Advocacy and the Science for Human Rights Programs at Amnesty International. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and researches issues at the intersect of political violence and conflict, human rights, and aid provision. He has written extensively about rights in conflict and humanitarian crises, with particular focus on East and Central Africa. He serves as an Adjunct Professor at American University's School of International Service and George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs. Prior to his current post with Amnesty, Scott served as AIUSA's Country Specialist on Sudan from 2003-2008.

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