



**SYNERGIE DES FEMMES POUR LES VICTIMES
DES VIOLENCES SEXUELLES
« S.F.V.S »**

E-mail : synergie_sfvs@yahoo.fr
Tel : (+243) 813179957
(+243) 995484965

B.P 227 Gisenyi/ Rwanda
Province du Nord Kivu
République Démocratique du Congo



March 7th, 2011

**The Honorable Hillary Clinton
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520**

CC: -The Honorable Mary Schapiro, Chairman, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
-Ambassador Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, U.S. Department of State
-Susan Page, Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, U.S. Department of State
-Robert Hormats, Under Secretary for Energy, Economic, and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State
-Maria Otero, Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Dear Secretary Clinton:

As representatives of 35 Congolese women's rights organizations working in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, we write to you to urge the U.S. State Department to oppose a delay and fully support the swift and effective implementation of Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Breaking the link between minerals and violence is a crucial step toward bringing peace to our region, eastern Congo. The U.S. law can help bring peace to eastern Congo, and delaying its implementation will fuel increased sexual violence on the ground.

We have been informed of lobby efforts by local and international mining operators to postpone implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act, but we would like to remind you that their initiative is only business motivated.

You have been on the ground and seen for yourself the heavy toll of minerals-fueled conflicts on innocent women, girls and children in DR Congo, and the US legislation is for us the leverage needed to instill and impose ethical minerals business practices in the Great Lakes Region. We therefore strongly oppose a delay or a phase in of the reporting requirements of the legislation.

Sincerely,

Justine Masika Bihamba

Coordinator

SYNERGIE - A Platform of 35 Women's Rights Groups Standing up for Victims of Sexual Violence