

Day 566 of the complete and total embargo of artisanal Congolese minerals.

Yesterday AVX, Motorola and HP proclaimed success at having brought 10 tons of coltan out of the Congo, as proof that they are helping the Congolese people. Nothing could be farther from the truth and it is a travesty that these kinds of reports are generated by these giant corporations without the facts. This is nothing more than a mineral grab by AVX, Motorola, HP and others, while the suffering of the Congolese people is deepened by it and by this rosy reporting.

Following are the full facts surrounding the AVX mineral grab.

This is a terrible initiative which destroys the dignity and opportunity of the Congolese people. If AVX, iTSCi, IECC, OECD, Motorola and HP were truly interested in the best interests of the Congolese people, they would have started this initiative by focusing on artisanal mines owned locally in the conflict areas as well as a thousand miles from the conflict areas that are experiencing the embargo, not in developing their own pipeline that virtually ignores the Congolese community and the conflict zone itself.

**What this press release conveniently leaves out:**

1) Katanga is not in the conflict zone. The whole point of Dodd-Frank was to fix the problem in the conflict zone (North Kivu is the heart of it, with other local areas included). For a giant corporation, NGOs and trade associations to pat themselves on the back for creating a conflict free "pipeline" that does nothing to solve the actual problem of ridding the conflict zone of militia is ludicrous. Who cares if you bring minerals out of the Congo if you do nothing to get the militia out as well?

2) The UN Panel of Experts has confirmed that the smuggling of minerals by the militia has "increased significantly" since Dodd-Frank shut down the entire central African mining industry. Why doesn't this show up in AVX's report? Because it shows the ineffectiveness of what they are doing - it is completely unrelated to solving the problem of criminal elements in the Congo, yet this report insinuates that somehow this AVX project is doing something to solve the problem of ridding the Congo of the militia. Nothing could be farther from the truth - they are doing better than ever.

3) Our company exists to serve artisanal miners throughout the Congo in moving their minerals to market. These tribes have a few thousand tons of coltan already stockpiled that were mined before Dodd-Frank, and have the capacity to mine hundreds of tons a month. Since September 11, 2010, not a single ounce of artisanal coltan has been purchased by any smelter anywhere in the world. This report references "artisanal cooperatives" - a couple small mines in Katanga - but doesn't bother to note that the UN Panel of Experts says over 1 million people in the conflict areas and up to 10 million throughout the Congo who depend on mining for a living have been moved from abject poverty to utter destitution because nothing is selling.

4) If AVX is the proof project on how we must work in order to get minerals out of the Congo, the Congolese people themselves will likely never benefit. In fact, it is much more likely that the entire Congolese mining industry will be taken out of the hands of the artisanal miner (90%+ is mined by tribes), and usurped by giant corporations like AVX, which is not a Congolese

company and has no Congolese presence other than to pull minerals and money out of the country. This article is blowing their horn because they can get coltan out of the Congo. The issue has NEVER been the need to get coltan out of the Congo, but to rid the Congo of the militia and create a local economy that is sustainable without complete dependency on a giant non-Congolese corporation. AVX's project fails in every respect. Since they are there the Congolese have become fully dependent on their presence and no local economy is being built that could be sustainable without mining.

5) 95-98% of all minerals in the Congo are from areas hundreds to over a thousand miles from the conflict area, in places not even connected to the conflict zone by a single road. The idea that the Congo and all of central Africa, the size of the United States, has been embargoed because of what is happening in an area the size of Vermont that is not connected to the rest of the Congo by roads, is mind-boggling to the Congolese. It is like dropping a nuclear bomb on Pakistan to kill bin Laden. No one would ever support such a solution, but that is exactly what we have done to central Africa - the collateral damage from Dodd-Frank is massive and universal throughout the region, in the faint hopes that we might catch a few militia in the path of this region-wide carnage. Yet the militia are the only ones thriving.

Here we have a giant corporation blowing their horn for what amounts to old-style imperial colonialism and a full takeover of the local economy of a region of the Congo that doesn't even begin to address the conflict zone problem, while millions in the Congo are devastated and Kwashiorkor disease is now being reported, and we're supposed to applaud?

The world is upside down.

Demonize criminals, not minerals.

Can you find us just one smelter in the world who will buy OECD compliant, fully documented, government-approved coltan from artisanal miners in the Congo, most of which comes from areas a thousand miles from and never connected with the conflict zone? That would help the Congolese. Until then this is only helping AVX and the other giant multi-national corporations and should not be celebrated.

Chuck Blakeman



Groupe Weyi International

On Mar 15, 2012, at 9:50 AM, Chuck's Crankset Mail wrote:

Day 552 of the complete and total embargo of artisanal Congolese minerals. Kwashiorkor (starvation) disease is now showing up in some places in the Congo - a disease only seen in famine situations. We have many chiefs and tribes across the DR Congo we are trying to help

sell their artisanal minerals; thousands of tons of coltan, tin, tungsten and other minerals. Most of them are no where near the conflict area (including the largest coltan producer) and have never been connected to conflict in any way.

We cannot find buyers of legitimate artisanal minerals anywhere in the world, including those not even covered by Dodd Frank. The stigma created by Enough Project, Global Witness, and the simplistic fixation on "conflict minerals" and "cell phones are evil" has made everything coming out the Congo radioactive. These fundraising campaigns may be helping the NGOs but they are creating utter destitution and much worse conditions today in the Congo than existed 18 months ago. **IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS THE DR CONGO HAS PLUMMETED TO DEAD LAST IN THE WORLD - THEY ARE NOW THE POOREST COUNTRY ON EARTH.**

The 400,000 miners who are out of work and their 1,000,000 dependents do not find Dodd-Frank to be a workable solution. They are dying.

Will you help us find just one smelter who will buy legitimate artisanal minerals from the Congo? Or are you more interested in your political position than in the plight of the Congolese people?

Any solution that creates such wide collateral damage is unacceptable. You are backing a nuclear option that destroys the lives of millions in order to POSSIBLY hurt the militia, who are the only ones whose exports have increased under Dodd-Frank.

May you remember the thousands who are starving and the 1 million you have negatively impacted under this devastating approach you are proposing.

Demonize criminals, not minerals.

Just one smelter. Just one.

Thank you,  
Chuck Blakeman

[REDACTED]

On Dec 24, 2011, at 10:57 AM, Chuck's Crankset Mail wrote:

Day 471 of the complete and total embargo of artisanal Congolese minerals. Kwashiorkor is now showing up in some places in the Congo - a disease only seen in famine situations.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS? May you remember the thousands who are starving and the 1 million you have negatively impacted under this devastating approach you are proposing.

Demonize criminals, not minerals.

Just one smelter. Just one.

Thank you,

Chuck Blakeman



On Dec 16, 2011, at 9:56 PM, Chuck's Crankset Mail wrote:

### **September 11, 2010 - November 25, 2011**

Day 462 of the complete and total embargo of artisanal Congolese minerals. We again ask that you help us find just one smelter in the world who will buy artisanal minerals from the Congo.

**Thousands of people are starving, 400,000 are out of work, and 1 million have been moved from abject poverty to utter destitution** by the actions of Enough Project, Global Witness and Dodd-Frank in demonizing Congolese minerals instead of central African criminals.

### **Just one smelter? Anyone?**

Chuck Blakeman for  
Chief Emmanuel Ntima Weyi



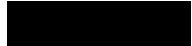
Groupe Weyi International  
Gombe, Kinshasa

On Dec 8, 2011, at 11:45 AM, Chuck's Crankset Mail wrote:

Day 454 of the complete and total embargo of artisanal Congolese minerals. We again ask that you help us find just one smelter in the world who will buy the hundreds of tons of coltan that our tribes have not been able to sell now for 15 months. They have lost their livelihoods. We do not have another year to resolve Dodd-Frank. Please request a phase-in period so these people can go back to work and feed their families.

Best,

Chuck Blakeman



Groupe Weyi International  
Gombe, Kinshasa

On Nov 25, 2011, at 9:02 PM, Chuck's Crankset Mail wrote:

### **September 11, 2010 - November 25, 2011**

**Day 440** of the complete embargo of legitimate minerals coming from artisanal mines in the Congo.

I am in Kenya right now. We still cannot get any coltan out of Congo - it's been 14 months for most of these destitute tribes. Dodd-Frank has made it easier for criminals to export their coltan (UN Panel of Experts) and has made it possible for giant corporations like AVX, Motorola, HP and Intel to monopolize the legitimate mining industry in the Congo. The effect of this monopoly by giant corporations and the militia is that hundreds of thousands of people in the Congo have been forced from abject poverty to utter destitution and are starving.

We have contacted every smelter in the world and all known buyers and no one is buying. We have a fully OECD compliant process and no one is interested. We have approached Motorola's Solutions for Hope Project, talked to the EICC and applied for membership to iTSCI, all who say they cannot help us.

For the sake of the Congolese, we ask again for Enough Project, Global Witness, Motorola, AVX, HP, Intel and the SEC to recommend an immediate grace period for artisanal minerals and very aggressively encourage the return of smelters to buy those minerals until such time as there is a viable process available for artisanal miners to prove the origin of their minerals.

If any of you can provide just one buyer of artisanal coltan, the Congolese would deeply appreciate it. Please advocate for the Congolese, not for a political position.

Regards,

Chuck Blakeman  


On Nov 22, 2011, at 8:26 AM, Chuck's Crankset Mail wrote:

**September 11, 2010 - November 22, 2011**

**Day 437** of the complete embargo of legitimate minerals coming from artisanal mines in the Congo.

Dodd-Frank has made it easier for criminals to export their coltan (UN Panel of Experts) and has made it possible for giant corporation like AVX, Motorola, HP and Intel to monopolize the legitimate mining industry in the Congo. The effect of this monopoly by giant corporations and the militia is that hundreds of thousands of people in the Congo have been forced from abject poverty to utter destitution and are starving.

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If any of you can provide a buyer of artisanal coltan the Congolese would deeply appreciate it. Please advocate for the Congolese, not for a political position.

Regards,

Chuck Blakeman  


On Nov 21, 2011, at 1:32 PM, Chuck's Crankset Mail wrote:

SEE MY RESPONSE IN BLUE BELOW

On Nov 21, 2011, at 11:31 AM, Fidel Bafilemba wrote:

Gentleman Chuck and All copied on this e-mail,

Since I first got copied on e-mails from you, I deliberately chose not to write you back immediately out of the need to assess how genuine your feelings for the "millions" miners were. This time I felt I needed since I suggested some of the buyers you blamed Enough for in your last blog post. That kind of cleverness won't help at all unless you don't want to understand the fact that awareness of the Congolese long time denied minerals fueled tragedy has has risen to undoable proportions within the U.S. and elsewhere.

Two of the leads you gave us to talk to could not help us sell the artisanal coltan from our Chiefs and their tribes. None of the smelters or other intermediaries in the world could help us. There is no artisanal coltan being sold from the Congo. You and your organization continue to deny the fact that there is a de facto embargo, but we cannot find a buyer. If you could lead us to just one buyer of artisanal coltan we could funnel all the Chiefs in that direction and this problem would be solved.

The other suggestion you gave, to sell to the Chinese, is an unconscionable position for a human rights organization to take. Even the more legitimate Chinese companies, if there is such a thing, won't buy right now. Only a few of the lowest of the low are hanging out in Boma buying coltan at as little as 30% of what it sold for before you told everyone Congolese minerals were evil.

And while I understand you're a businessman and you're not reaping up profits because of the U.S. electronics companies' pullout, I have always been amazed by your advocacy for miners mining industry has enslaved for over 15 years.

You did not do your homework in the Kivus (never talked to any of the miners - see letter to the SEC), and you have not done your homework on us "reaping up profits". We are a social enterprise set up specifically to combat the giant electronics companies and giant mining organizations who have raped the Congo for 60 years without leaving anything behind. Our purpose is specifically to get them out of the Congo, leave a majority of the profits in the Congo

with the Congolese people, build schools, clinics, potable water, and MOST importantly, provide loans and train business people to diversify the economy so that no one feels that have to do mining if they want to do something else.

See our enclosed Vision and Mission statement as a company and you will see you are lumping us in with the giant corporations which we are fighting against.

You never wanted to admit the fact miners are not savages to formed or join armed groups as ant-Dodd-Frank Act advocates uphold.

On the contrary, I willingly admit that many miners have been forced to join the armed groups. I say that all the time. So have children. So have farmers. So have school teachers. So have policemen, U.N. officials and parts of the Congolese Army. This doesn't make mining bad, or school teachers or farming. It makes the militia bad. Get rid of the militia and no one will be forced into joining them. That is what we should all be fighting against. Minerals are not the problem anymore than farming is the problem (many farmers have left farming to go into the mines because they are safer). Criminals are the problem. As Aloys Tegera of the Pole Institute in Goma said, "You have picked the wrong target. The militia are bad, not the minerals.

You make no mention of the fact that most of the Kivus miners have moved to northern Katanga.

This kind of statement has become your stock in trade, and people are supposed to take it at face value and think it is a good thing. The fact is this: SOME miners have left the Kivus, not most. And the reason they had to leave their homelands and their families is because of Dodd-Frank. Before Dodd-Frank they were able to sell their minerals and own their own businesses. Now they've been forced to uproot themselves, move away and work for a giant corporation like Motorola. What part of taking away someone's job, uprooting people from their homes and forcing them move far away to work for a giant multi-national - what part of that is a good thing? The fact that miners have had to move is part of the shame of Dodd-Frank.

None of you make the least mention of the fact that for about 20 years, eastern Congo economy has been largely sustained by aid agencies including the U.N. For your information, in North Kivu alone, we have about 270 aid agencies.

If the artisanal miners were allowed to keep a majority of the profits in their own country, there would be no need for aid agencies, which do nothing but make people more co-dependent and less likely to ever get on their own feet. The end result of Dodd-Frank is another \$20 million aid program to create even more co-dependency on aid groups. Aid groups have been in Africa for over 100 years and it is worse off economically today than it was then. Let's try a different approach. Let's create a local, diverse economy that is sustainable without outside aid. Dodd-Frank is keeping that from happening and people are starving as a result.



And while the Congolese mining code has always been clear that industry should promote economic activities diversification and environment protection, mining sites like Bisie, Omate, Itebero in Walikale, Rubaya in Masisi and Numbi, Nyabibwe in Kalehe, to name a few have been cut off the rest of country, and airplanes that are the transportation means manufactured items can be shipped there can't fly to those areas if they'd have no mineral loads in return.

This is another argument against Dodd-Frank. Before Dodd-Frank airplanes came in all the time carrying goods to the people in the area. Now that there are no minerals to carry out, the planes have stopped coming. Not only do the people not have their job, they aren't getting basic survival products either.

And again, the giant multi-national mining interests are never going to build schools or create a diverse local economy. They have no interest in doing that - it hurts their business. We are on the same side on this. That is why we're giving the artisanal miners an option that will keep the majority of the profits in their country.

Schools and health centers have always been almost non-existent while mining industry should provide for them according to Congo mining code.

I couldn't agree with you more. It is unethical and immoral that the giant mining corporations have taken so much out of the Congo over the last 60 years and put nothing back in. The few schools and clinics they have built are a disgrace - I have seen some of them. Dodd-Frank is keeping us from selling the coltan that will allow us to build real schools, real clinics, and train a diverse local economy to wean it off of a dependence on mining. We are only starting with mining because that is what is going to create the initial revenue to get all this going.

You have taken so much liberty quoting traditional chiefs as a strategy to legitimate your claims. Well, fortunately for people in offices in Washington, D.C are that naive to believe whatever comes to them.

Well, we certainly can't blame Washington for listening to too many Chiefs. I believe the grand total they have listened to is NONE. This is one of the most telling facts that you are not advocating for the Congolese people. You all keep quoting giant corporations, giant governments, and other NGOs and how much each of you think Dodd-Frank is a good idea. Yet you quote no Chiefs or their tribes involved in mining - none. I have repeatedly challenged you to find a tribe that owns a mine and are legitimate, honest miners who think Dodd-Frank is a good idea. To date, not only have you not quoted any local Congolese miners in favor of Dodd-Frank, you don't talk to them or listen to them. That is colonialism at its worst - you know what's good for the miners without asking them. I'll be glad to put in touch with a few dozen Chiefs and their tribes whose lives are being devastated by Dodd-Frank.

You have always said smuggling by armed groups has significantly increased. But at the same time you can't provide a comparative analysis to show how much was that before Dodd-Frank Act and how much it is today.

Actually I'm quoting Global Witness, who is quoting the U.N. Panel of Experts. See Global's recent article saying how the increased smuggling is a good sign that exports are up! Really quite amazing - <http://www.forbes.com/sites/coatesbateman/2011/11/03/global-witness-responds-to-tom-worstell-post/>

You don't mention how many times a week both Congolese and Rwandan authorities are seizing mineral loads in an effort to clean up the mining sector.

The problem is not the minerals, its the criminals. Get rid of the militia and there is no problem. No one is asking for a Dodd-Frank law in Australia's coltan region. Why? Because coltan isn't bad, criminals are bad, and Australia doesn't have a militia. Get rid of the militia - "you have picked the wrong target".

Your approach will not help at all, Gentleman.

Clearly we are world's apart on this. We believe that Enough and Global have vested so much of your time energy and fundraising into the Dodd-Frank strategy that you are willing to let innocent people die all over the Congo in order to keep going on what has proven already to be an utterly disastrous strategy. I also note that you never talk about the impact of Dodd-Frank on Kasai or the other mining regions or nine other countries that are all being destroyed by this nuclear approach to solving the problem in the Kivus.

If the majority of minerals were coming from the militia like diamonds were from Sierra Leone, Dodd-Frank would make sense. The the overwhelming majority of Congo minerals aren't even from the Kivus, let alone from criminals. You are creating collateral damage that is unacceptable and for the sake of the Congolese you need to reverse course and do what is good for them, not what is good for your fundraising. We should be on the same side on this, but you are working with giant corporations like Motorola instead.

See our enclosed vision and mission statement.

Sincerely,

Chuck Blakeman

<GWI Vision & Mission.pdf>

With due regards!  
Fidel Bafilemba

On 11/21/11, Chuck's Crankset Mail [REDACTED] > wrote:

Enough Project and Global Witness,

See the email below from iTSCI. They cannot help. We are out of options for moving Congolese artisanal coltan through legitimate channels.

We have contacted all 20+ coltan smelters in the world and 15+ intermediary buyers. We also followed the three leads given us by Enough Project (one did not respond, the other sent us to iTSCI, the third was rejected as a human rights violator - the Chinese).

We contacted and worked with OECD and IECC as well as iTSCI. We have shown everyone our OECD compliant process (enclosed). But the smelters won't even talk about taking future, as yet unmined coltan, let alone the hundreds of tons that are already warehoused. Our OECD compliant process is of no value to them. They believe the public perception created by Enough, Global and the other activists creates too much risk for them to buy from this region when they can buy from other regions of the world with impunity.

No intermediary buyers of any integrity are buying coltan from the Congo, with the exception of the one mentioned in iTSCI's letter below, who are working solely with Motorola in one tiny area only. This very limited project has zero benefit to the hundreds of thousands own their own mines and who can no longer mine Dodd-Frank effected minerals. The Motorola project allows some groups to say coltan is being exported, but the exportation of coltan that does not help the million Congolese miners is of no value. To the contrary it has the potential of ending artisanal mining altogether and putting all mining in the hands of giant multi-national corporations.

We have 260 tons of coltan in our possession from the Kivus, and are talking with a Chief from another area 800 miles from the Kivus who has 400 tons and can mine 30 tons a month. We are aware of many more situations like this. All of these poverty tribes are dead in the water without income and people are starving as a result.

What can you do? For the sake of the Congolese miners and their families, we are asking you once again to:

- 1) publicly support a moratorium on chain of custody requirements while a process is put in place to do what it says. Everything already in the

pipeline from these tribes is doomed to sit unsold unless forever unless you do this. Without the money from these stockpiles, they will lose their livelihoods. The giant corporations will not have a problem, only Congolese miners will suffer if these stockpiled minerals are ignored. The ultimate likelihood is that all of them will end up in the hands of the militia as the only possible sales option.

2) actively and aggressively negotiate with the 20+ smelters of coltan in the world to return to the Congo to buy these stockpiled minerals. And assure those smelters and the downstream electronics companies that not only will Enough and Global not question them, but will come out publicly and support them in doing so. As you know, militia smuggling has significantly increased since Dodd-Frank because there are no legitimate channels to sell into. We need to attract smelters and electronics companies back to the region in the very short term to stem the tide of collateral damage sweeping across the Congo.

We believe that you will act in the best interests of the millions of Congolese miners. We must put them above our own interests. We look forward to your response.

Best,

Chuck Blakeman  


On Nov 21, 2011, at 8:20 AM, Kay Nimmo wrote:

Dear Chuck

I have seen your comments to SEC and you can also refer to my comments in the 4 letters linked below. We are well aware of the impact of the embargo and will work to do everything possible, within the realms of the UN, OECD, SEC and of course the EICC requirements (as well as the national Govts and the ICGLR...) to avoid the embargo.

But,

- a) We cannot tag stock minerals since we have no way to prove where they originally came from. We hope that by lobbying SEC for a reasonable time period for release of all stocks (see letters to SEC) this will then allow EICC to accept them in the CFS audit and to allow the mineral to be moved.
- b) We cannot guarantee a market for any minerals. It is down to the end metal buyers and consumer product manufacturers to decide whether or

not they want to still buy from africa. Even if iTSCi traceability and due diligence is in place it is by no means certain that metal buyers will be bothered to submit a conflict mineral report to SEC and may not purchase from processors or smelters who are buying from DRC; but there is a better chance.

c) We started the project as a pilot in the Kivu's before the mining suspension and it was always the target of our project. However, we cannot go back to work there until there is clear international agreement on 'conflict free' mining areas, and the metal buyers will also accept the risk of kivu minerals. While the validation teams of the DRC Govt may have helped – the reports are not available. We would still do our own mine evaluations in any case.

d) We clearly need funding for the project but it is very difficult to plan when the 'conflict free' areas are not known and can change all the time. We hope to restart in the kivus by the new year – if some USaid and other funds that we expect come into play.

e) In addition we also charge a levy per tonne/kg of metal content exported. This is calculated simply as project cost divided by projected tonnage production in a period. ITRI is a non profit organisation and we work at cost. However, since we do not yet know the kivu mine locations, nor the budget or the tonnage I cant give you a cost. In Katanga it is currently \$5.50 per kg of Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> contained, collected by the international trader. Small areas, small production – high overhead. A large project covering as many mines as possible is most cost effective.

f) Coltan from Rwanda and Katanga from the project is going to chinese processors, including the mai baridi/kisengo Motorola processor. However, as noted – no guarantees.

Unfortunately therefore, there may be limited purpose in joining iTSCi until we do operate in your area. Where is your mine exactly?

Regards  
Kay

ITRI comments to SEC;

<http://www.sec.gov/comments/df-title-xv/specialized-disclosures/specializeddisclosures-84.pdf>

<http://www.sec.gov/comments/s7-40-10/s74010-61.pdf>

<http://www.sec.gov/comments/s7-40-10/s74010-83.pdf>

<http://www.sec.gov/comments/s7-40-10/s74010-381.pdf>

From: Chuck's Crankset Mail [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 November 2011 04:41

To: Samantha Hoo; Kay Nimmo; Lesley Lewis

Cc: Emmanuel Weyi  
Subject: Re: Membership Information Request

Samantha,

Thank you for your response. Enclosed please find everything I believe you will need for full membership from the Annex 5: Documentation Required section. Let me know if you need a hard copy of the Membership Application sent - the enclosed is a scanned copy with my signature.

Please expedite our membership as quickly as possible as we have people in the Congo who are going hungry and are in jeopardy of their lives because they cannot sell their coltan.

Also, per your confidentiality statements, we understand that you will hold our information in the strictest of confidence.

Kay,

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the answers to the following questions upon your return.

1) Are you presently able to use the ITSCI process to verify coltan coming from the Kivus? It appears your program is only working in Katanga. If your process will verify coltan in the Kivus and assure us that smelters will then buy because of that verification, we would consider membership. Clearly it is of no value to us to become members if you are not yet able to verify Kivu coltan and assure that smelters will honor that verification. If your process is up and running in the Kivus and can ensure we will be able to sell verified coltan, we will join immediately.

3) What is the cost of verifying each shipment, if any?

Best Regards,

Chuck Blakeman  
Denver, CO  
USA



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