

raids. Talisman is also accused of indirect complicity, by which is alleged that the oil revenues it generates for the government are being used to finance military operations and purchases in support of the war effort²⁹.

Companies in the extractive industry sector can also benefit from a conflict situation. It was recently reported that Lundin Oil, a Swedish oil company, was granted an oil concession in southern Sudan. Allegedly, in order to guarantee the safety of the oil company's operations and clear area for a road to the concession, the government waged a 'scorched earth' campaign against the local communities, whom were forcibly evicted and their villages razed³⁰.

Natural resource extraction can be a target of conflict. Combatants may target companies in order to gain indirect access to political decisionmakers. Because of their scale and degree of economic importance, mining companies represent a lever by which otherwise-marginalized communities can gain a political voice, and make themselves heard by remote or uninterested government decision makers. Anti-Indonesian sentiment in Irian Jaya was already strong when the Freeport-McMoran copper mine began operation in 1967. It was not until 1977, however, that anti-Indonesian insurgents moved to the minesite area and began to target mine equipment and personnel³¹.

Mining supplies minerals that are used by others who profit through conflict. Mining and resulting minerals form a key component of the supply chains for arms manufacturers. The increasing attention directed towards their supply chains by socially-responsible large manufacturers may turn to suppliers implicated in conflict. Placing such conditions on suppliers has wide precedent. Several leading companies – General Motors, Toyota and Ford among others – have recently required their suppliers to adopt environmental management systems consistent with the ISO 14001 standard³².

Mining for coltan (colombo tantalite) in the Democratic Republic of Congo is alleged to be fueling the conflict there, as well as threatening World Heritage class protected areas and endangered elephants and gorillas in the region³³. Coltan is a valuable hardening agent used for metals needed in microchip manufacture. The World Conservation Union, a prominent international NGO, has called upon multinational companies in North America and Europe to ensure that the coltan they purchase does not come from these sites in the DRC.

²⁹ Harker, J., *Human Security in the Sudan: The Report of a Canadian Assessment Mission*, (DFAIT, 2000).

³⁰ The Editor, "'Wanted: A Sudan Policy'", *The Washington Post*, Friday, 16 March 16, 2001, page A20.

³¹ Ross, M. Ibid. p. 23.

³² See E-Wire. "Ford Becomes First U.S. Automaker to Require Suppliers To Achieve ISO 14001 Certification". Sept. 21, 1999. <http://ens.lycos.com/e-wire/Sept99/21Sept9901.html> and E-Wire. "General Motors Sets New Level of Environmental Performance for Suppliers", Sept. 21, 1999. <http://ens.lycos.com/e-wire/Sept99/21Sept9902.html>.

³³ IUCN. 'Coltan Mining threatens World Heritage Sites in the DRC'. (Gland: World Conservation Union, March 27, 2001). http://www.iucn.org/info_and_news/press/coltan.html