

Ref: Diamonds

DRC coordinators
CAFRAN coordinators

23 October 2002

Dear All,

As you will be aware, our new report on the DRC entitled *Making a killing – the diamond trade in government-controlled DRC* (AFR 62/017/2002) was published on 22 October 2002. The timing was good, in that the previous day the UN Panel of Experts had published their third report on the exploitation of natural resources in the DRC and so there was a lot of press interest in the DRC, although the Panel's report did somewhat overshadow our own report in terms of publicity. However, there will be plenty of opportunities in the coming months to lobby around the report and publicise AI's concerns.

Some activities around the publication of *Making a killing*

- Godfrey, one of our Central Africa team researchers, gave an interview on the day of publication to the radio program **Focus on Africa**, broadcast on the BBC World Service. There were also reports on **Radio France Internationale** and **Channel Africa**, a regional radio broadcasting to West and Central Africa. Marcel, another of our researchers, based in Kampala, is to give an interview to a television channel called TV Africa, which broadcasts from South Africa.
- The **DRC Minister for Human Rights, Ntumba Luaba**, was in London recently and members of the Central Africa team, together with our Africa Program director, met him here at IS on 21 October. During the meeting, we presented the report *Making a killing* to him and raised our principal concerns. The Minister acknowledged that human rights abuses are taking place in Mbuji-Mayi and said that he "deplored" the executions which were taking place. He also acknowledged that there had so far been no legal proceedings initiated against anyone suspected of responsibility for the unlawful killing of an illegal miner, and that this was a cause for concern.
- The Minister told us that he had visited Mbuji-Mayi this August specifically to look into the human rights situation there. He visited both the *polygone* concession and the village of Luamuella and interviewed victims of shootings. He said that he had made a series of recommendations to MIBA and local justice officials with a view to bringing an end to the abuses in the concessions. He undertook to write to AI giving details of the recommendations he has made and responding to other aspects of the report. He said that on an initial reading he found the recommendations made by AI in the report appropriate and useful.

- **On 22 October AI's Secretary General Irene Khan wrote to all members of the UN Security Council** to detail AI's concerns about the human rights abuses being perpetrated in the DRC in connection with the exploitation of natural resources. A copy of the report *Making a killing* was included with the letter. A copy of the letter is enclosed for your information – it is currently for internal use only, but we are considering making it public. We will keep you informed about this.
- The **meeting of the World Diamond Congress**, involving the World Federation of Diamond Bourses and the International Diamond Manufacturers' Association, is being held at the Langham Hilton **in London on 28 and 29 October**. On the 28th, AI, Action Aid and Global Witness are organising a small event outside the hotel, with placards and banners. We have produced a folder jointly with the other two NGOs, incorporating photographs, our respective logos and our main recommendations in relation to the diamond trade. The report *Making a killing* will be included in the folder which is to be handed out to all industry delegates at the meeting (we think about 300 delegates will be attending). Action Aid are also organising a Marilyn Monroe lookalike as part of the event outside the hotel. We will make available copies of the folder to you for use in your own campaigning activities. We are also intending to film the event outside the Hilton and will make these images available to you too.
- AI will be attending the launch of the diamond certification system agreed through the **Kimberley Process on 5 November in Interlaken, Switzerland**. Copies of the report *Making a killing* will be distributed there. The certification system itself is due to come into force in January 2003.
- AI will be participating in a seminar on conflict diamonds in **Florence, Italy**, as part of the **European Social Forum** which is being held **from 7-10 November**. Action Aid and Greenpeace will also be taking part in the seminar. Discussions will focus on the Kimberley Process and its shortcomings, and will provide an opportunity to discuss human rights abuses associated with the diamond trade. Copies of the report *Making a Killing* will be distributed at this seminar.

Some suggested actions for coordinators and groups:

- DRC and CAFRAN coordinators are asked to ensure that your Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as your Ministry of Overseas Development (or equivalent) receive a copy of the report *Making a killing*, together with a covering letter summarising AI's concerns. Where you have the capacity, you are encouraged to seek a meeting with Ministry officials in order to raise AI's concerns in person – please coordinate this with your section's parliamentary lobbyists.
- Groups should be encouraged to write to their local member of parliament / deputy, enclosing a copy of the report *Making a killing* and summarising AI's concerns. Cross-party groups, or parliamentary human rights groups, are likely to be particularly sympathetic to AI's concerns

- Groups are also encouraged to write to the DRC government authorities and to MIBA officials raising AI's concerns. Please base your letters on the recommendations contained at the end of the report *Making a Killing*. You may also want to highlight in your letters some of the individual cases documented in the report. Please contact me if you would like further specific guidance on what to put in your letters. **Coordinators are encouraged to post examples of letters they send on the intranet space, as well as copies of any replies received.** We will be coordinating approaches to the Zimbabwean authorities with our colleagues in the Southern Africa team at the IS, and so CAFRAN and DRC coordinators/groups are asked to restrict their activities to the Congolese authorities.

The principal targets for letter-writing are:

DRC authorities:

Prof. Ntumba Luaba, Ministre des Droits Humains, Ministère des Droits Humains, 33/C Boulevard du 30 juin, Kinshasa-Gombe, DRC

M. Ngele Masudi, Ministre de la Justice, Ministère de la Justice et des affaires parlementaires, Ministère de la Justice, BP 3137, Kinshasa-Gombe, DRC

M. Simon Tumawako Bavungu, Ministre des Mines, Ministère des Mines, 77 Avenue de la Justice, Kinshasa-Gombe, DRC

MIBA officials:

Jean-Charles Okoto, Président directeur général, MIBA, BP 377 / 378, Mbuji-Mayi, DRC

Chrisos Ila Ngongo, Assistant du PDG et Directeur des services généraux, MIBA, BP 377 / 378, Mbuji-Mayi, DRC

Michel Haubert, Administrateur délégué, MIBA, BP 377 / 378, Mbuji-Mayi, DRC

Other names and addresses to write letters to will be added in due course.

Targeting economic actors

We are still in the process of deciding how best to approach the companies with a financial stake in the DRC diamond trade. We hope that AI's **International Network on Company Approaches (INCA)** will take the lead on raising AI's concerns with these companies and encouraging them to play a positive role in ending the abuses being committed in Mbuji-Mayi.

We will be discussing our campaigning in this area in more detail in early November after we have got feedback from the Kimberley Process meeting in Switzerland and from the European Social Forum in Italy. We will be working in conjunction with the Economic Relations team here at the IS and will aim to produce

an action circular on diamond campaigning by the end of November. Our intention is to involve sections as much as possible, including at local group level, in this campaigning.

It would be very useful if coordinators could post any ideas they have about campaigning in this area onto the **intranet space** so that we can begin sharing our thoughts.

You may also be interested in viewing our new webpages on economic exploitation at: http://web.amnesty.org/web/web.nsf/pages/ec_campaigns_africa

I'll write to you again soon with further feedback and suggestions for action.

All the best,

Andy <Author_Name>