



AT MITCHELL HAMLINE SCHOOL OF LAW

[www.worldwithoutgenocide.org](http://www.worldwithoutgenocide.org)

## CONFLICT MINERALS



For over two decades, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has suffered intense conflict in the mineral-rich eastern region. Tin, tungsten, tantalum, and gold are in high demand for use in jewelry, cars, and electronics like phones, computers, and cameras. Armed groups compete for these resources, known as conflict minerals, exploiting the land and devastating local populations. Over 6 million civilians have died, making this **the deadliest conflict since World War II. We can end this violence by ending the conflict-minerals trade.**

**The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act** requires companies that use minerals from Congo or a nearby country to file a report **identifying where the minerals come from.**

This reporting requirement has significantly reduced violence in Congolese mines.

### In 2010

- **0 mines** were conflict-free.
- Nearly **every mine** was controlled by a military group.
- **0 audits** were conducted.

### Today

- **495** mines are **verified conflict-free.**
- **80%** of miners work in mines with **no armed group involvement.**
- **78%** of suppliers have **passed audits.**

Despite these improvements, violence remains. Congo is considered the **rape capital of the world.** On average, 48 women are raped every hour. Gang rapes, genital mutilation, and sexual violence are committed by armed groups, gangs, and government and police forces. **Many of the victims are children and babies.** Rape victims and children born of rape are often rejected by their families. HIV is rampant, and cases often go untested and untreated. **Rapists almost always go unpunished.**

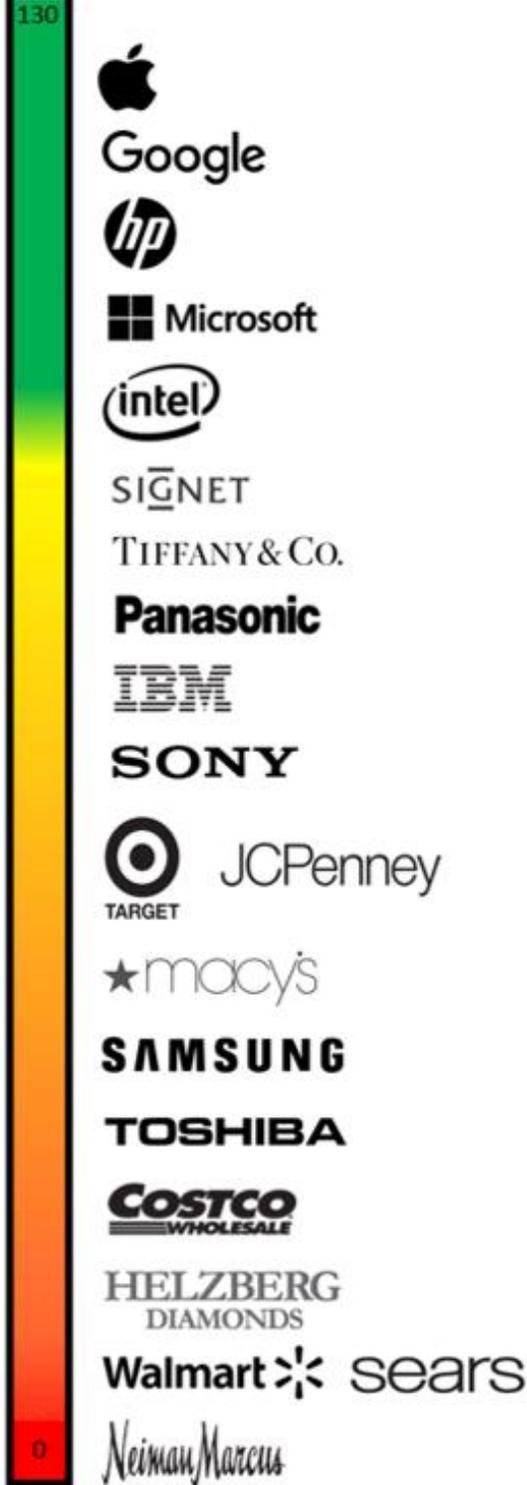
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In 2016, 46 children aged 18 months to 10 years were abducted and raped by militias in eastern Congo. Some young victims' injuries were so severe that their **internal organs could not be repaired.** In a landmark case, 12 of the militia members were convicted of crimes against humanity for rape and murder.

Dr. Denis Mukwege, a Congolese physician, received the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 2018 for his work treating victims of rape and sexual violence.

Minnesotans want the state to buy electronics only from companies that comply with Dodd-Frank. **We don't want to be complicit in the deadliest conflict since World War II. Support HF 1861 and SF 1132.**

## 2017 Company Rankings\*



## CHANGE BEGINS WITH CONSUMERS

**The Conflict-Free Initiative** is a national campaign to support conflict-free electronics. Students, schools, organizations, cities, and states have immense power as buyers of computers, lab equipment, and other electronics. We can urge major electronics companies to use responsible practices when we buy only conflict-free products.

Companies are ranked on their use of conflict-free minerals in their products. The companies in **green** audit their supply chains, buy conflict-free minerals, support mining communities, and support legislation. **These are the companies we support.**

Companies in **yellow** take some steps to investigate their supply chains. Companies in **red** do nothing to support the conflict-free trade. **We must urge them to do more.**

*Buy responsibly.  
Urge your school, organization,  
city, and state to become  
conflict-free.*

\*Adapted from the Enough Project  
<https://enoughproject.org>