***Dodd-Frank Act requires companies to report to SEC on materials that fuel armed conflict in Congo***

June 2, 2015 (Washington DC) --- The deadline was reached yesterday for publicly traded companies in the United States to disclose the potential presence of “conflict minerals” in their supply chains. This is the second year companies have had to file such reports with the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC). Enough Project experts are available for comment, analysis and interviews.

[**Fidel Bafilemba**](http://www.enoughproject.org/staff/fidel-bafilemba-field-researcher-goma-0)**, Central Africa-based field researcher at the Enough Project**, said: “Spurred by civil society in Congo and concerned groups around the world, we have seen unprecedented progress by some companies on the conflict minerals problem, and we need to see much more."

[**Holly Dranginis**](http://enoughproject.org/staff/holly-dranginis), **Policy Analyst at the Enough Project**, said: "Monday’s reporting deadline marked an increased dedication on the part of Congress and the SEC to corporate transparency and more responsible supply chains. These filings give the public a chance to peer into what used to be a black box. With these reporting rules, we now have a magnifying glass to see in detail where companies are sourcing their materials, and how exacting is their commitment to peace and human rights.”

**More background:**

Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act passed in 2010 and was implemented by the SEC in 2012.  1502 requires companies that use tin, tungsten, tantalum, or gold in their products to determine where those minerals were sourced. If it is determined that the minerals originate in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo) or in the surrounding region, the company must report on the due diligence measures they conduct to uncover whether the minerals are contributing to Congo’s ongoing conflict, the deadliest since World War II.

A lawsuit spearheaded by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and other industry associations argued the law was too burdensome for companies. However, NAM’s claims were [largely struck down in court](http://www.lexisnexis.com/legalnewsroom/securities/b/securities/archive/2014/04/15/circuit-court-largely-rejects-challenges-to-sec-conflict-mineral-rules.aspx), and companies like Apple and Intel are proving that its argument lacks a grounding in reality. Both companies not only filed their reports early this year, but they also went beyond the strict reporting requirements by describing practices that raise the bar and provide leadership in the conflict-free sourcing movement. Intel has [verified](http://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/corporate-responsibility/pursuit-of-conflict-free-minerals.html)that all of their microprocessors are “DRC conflict free” – clarifying for consumers that these products don’t contain conflict minerals. [Apple’s report](https://www.apple.com/supplier-responsibility/pdf/Conflict_Minerals_Report.pdf) details the process they undertook to notify and educate their smelters and refiners on the importance of sourcing conflict-free minerals from Congo - a process which resulted in Apple ultimately [cutting](http://www.pcworld.idg.com.au/article/566262/apple-makes-progress-cutting-use-conflict-minerals/)four smelters and suppliers from their supply chain for not complying with Apple’s request that they participate in an audit process.

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ABOUT THE ENOUGH PROJECT

For media use, short version: "[The Enough Project](http://www.enoughproject.org/), an atrocity prevention research and policy group."

The Enough Project is a project of the Center for American Progress aiming to end genocide and crimes against humanity. Founded in 2007, Enough focuses on the crises in Sudan, South Sudan, eastern Congo, Central African Republic, Somalia, and areas affected by the Lord’s Resistance Army. Enough conducts intensive field research in conflict zones, develops practical policies to address these crises, and shares sensible tools to empower citizens and groups working for change. For more information, visit [www.EnoughProject.org](http://www.EnoughProject.org)