

RULES FOR BUSINESS RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE

WHY?

246 MILLION
CHILD LABORERS
WORLDWIDE

OVER 50 MILLION HECTARES*
IN LAND GRABS
DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS

*THE SIZE OF GERMANY

WHAT?

800 ORGANISATIONS
AND
UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
SUPPORT A TREATY

HOW?

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treaty
movement

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government

@treatymovement

#stopcorporateabuse

find out more

TREATYMOVEMENT.COM

TIME FOR JUSTICE

The biggest companies in the world are often implicated in human rights abuses. A man is killed defending his home from a destructive mining project in El Salvador. Hundreds are displaced from their traditional lands to make way for palm oil plantations in Indonesia. Yet many of these crimes go unpunished, due to corruption of local legal systems and the fact that many corporations are richer and more powerful than the states that seek to regulate them.



Photo: Godwin Ojo, FOE Nigeria, at the United Nations



Photo: Gas flaring in Nigeria

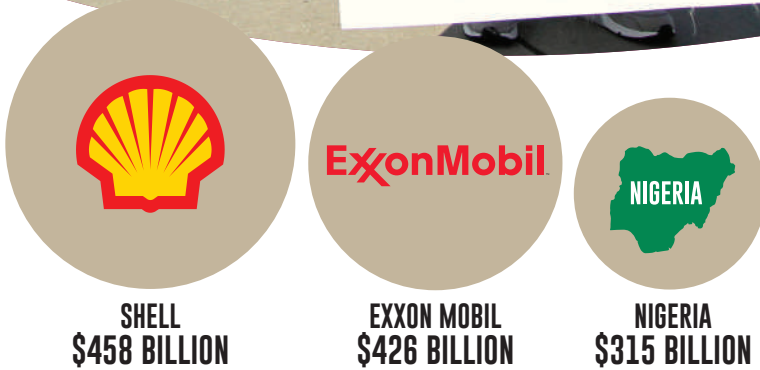
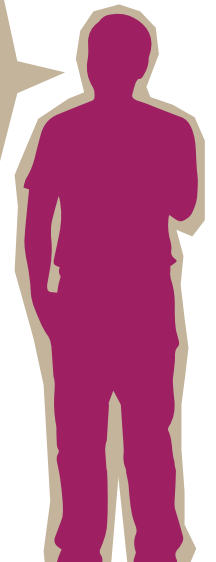
TOTAL CORPORATE IMPUNITY IN NIGERIA

"All of us who are victims, whose land Total has so taken and we are suffering." Teresa Okadike, from the Egi communities

The damaging social and environmental impacts of the oil fields in the Niger Delta are a prime example of the injustice of corporate impunity.

The French Petrol company Total continues to use the damaging practice of gas flaring to this day, even though this practice has officially been illegal since 1984.² Many members of the Egi clan have had their land taken from them against their will and others have received no compensation. In 2010, two people died and a number of people were injured when a protest by the Egi Oil and Gas Producing Families against the non-application of the memorandum of understanding signed by Total, was violently suppressed.³

we need a binding treaty on business



▲ ANNUAL REVENUE/GDP IN BILLIONS OF \$US DOLLARS¹

In 2015 there will be a historic UN meeting to establish new binding rules on business and bring justice to thousands of victims. It will be the first session of the Inter Governmental Working Group, where UN member countries will decide the scope, content and form of this new Human Rights Treaty.

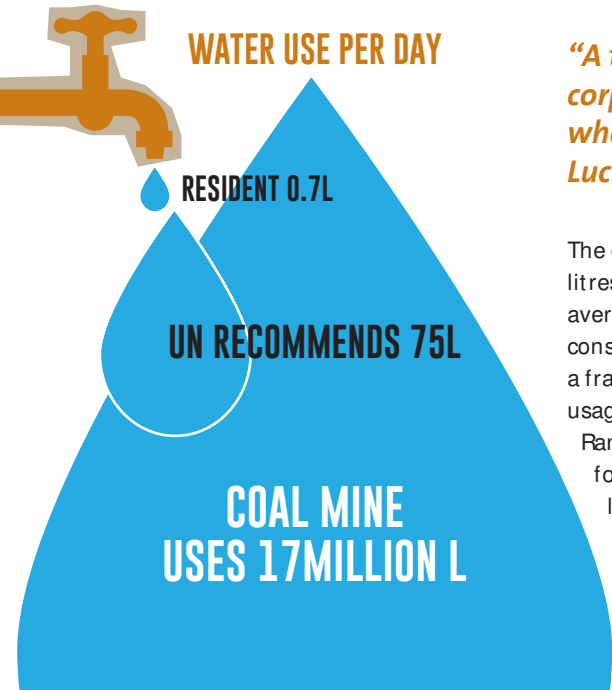


Photo: Cerrejón mine, and (inset) graveyard near minesite



ANGLO-AMERICAN MINING AWAY HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA

The transnational corporation Anglo American is one of three equal shareholders in El Cerrejón in La Guajira, Colombia, among the world's largest open pit coal mines. It exports both the highly polluting fuel and all its profits, but leaves behind the social and environmental destruction, Anglo-America hides behind voluntary Corporate Responsibility codes, with the motto 'responsible mining'.



*“A treaty will give victims of corporate abuses access to justice where there is currently none.”
Lucia Ortiza, FoE Brazil*

The coalmine uses an incredible 17 million litres of water per day, meanwhile,⁴ an average resident in nearby Alta Guajira consumes just 0.7 litres of water per day, a fraction of the UN's recommended daily usage of 50-100 litres.⁵ Pollution of the Rancheria River has made it impossible for local people to hunt, fish, or raise livestock, which violates the right to health, water, a healthy environment, and the right to life itself.

Photo: Chied Atta Ebo, community affected by Wilmar



WILMAR: DESTROYING LIVES AND RAINFOREST

Wilmar International, one of the world's largest palm oil traders, continue their abusive practices of deforestation and land-grabbing, despite promises to stop. Since 2010, Wilmar International has acquired tens of thousands of hectares of land for palm oil plantations in Nigeria, which has destroyed livelihoods and dispossessed local communities.

“Voluntary self regulation by companies and financiers is wholly insufficient. We need binding rules to hold both companies and financiers accountable.” Anne van Schaik, FoE Europe

The main providers of loans to Wilmar International in the past five years are HSBC, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial, Sumitomo Mitsui Financial, Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation and BNP Paribas.⁶

Many of Wilmar's North American and EU financiers have adopted Environmental, Social and Governance criteria that should prevent them from investing in companies engaged in land grabbing and destruction of tropical forests. Yet despite the fact that some of these policies have been in place for more than ten years, financiers are still involved in these practices by providing financial services to companies like Wilmar.



Photo: March against mining in El Salvador



CORPORATE WRONGS PROTECTED IN EL SALVADOR

Corporate rights are very well protected internationally through various binding international agreements such as free trade and investment agreements, and investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) processes. ISDS enables foreign corporations to sue governments for billions of dollars in private and often secret tribunals, whenever they feel that their profits are negatively affected by new laws or changes in policy.

“When a country can be sued by a foreign corporation for protecting basic human rights—fundamental change is needed.”
Sam Cossar, FoE Australia

In El Salvador, the Pacific Rim mining company accused of human rights abuses is using ISDS to sue the government for 301 million dollars because the president decided to stop issuing mining permits after water supplies were polluted.⁸ During protests against the mine several environmental activists were murdered and to this day families of the victims are still demanding justice.



Photo: UN Human Rights Council in Geneva



TIME FOR A TREATY

After decades of struggle from communities across the world, the idea of corporations being held legally responsible for their crimes no matter where they may occur is finally becoming a reality. The new Human Rights Treaty has the support of more than 800 organizations, the UN Human Rights council, the Vatican and many diverse governments including South Africa, Indonesia, India, China and Ecuador.

ON THE ROAD TO CHANGE

1974

UN Commission on Corporations established

1990

UN drafts TNCs code of conduct

2014

UN passes treaty resolution

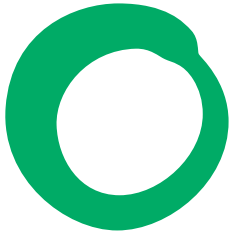
2015

First IGW meeting on binding treaty

JUSTICE FOR ALL

Traditionally, international human rights law focuses on the role and responsibilities of states. Human rights abuses arising from the cross-border activities of corporations is the largest gap in international law. In our globalised world, companies operate between different national jurisdictions and often escape accountability. The Treaty will seek to address the current gaps in international law and bring much needed justice to thousands.

TO GET INVOLVED AND FIND OUT MORE GO TO
TREATYMOVEMENT.COM & FOEI.ORG



**Friends of
the Earth
International**

www.foei.org

economic
justice –
resisting
neoliberalism

Friends of the Earth International is the world's largest grassroots environmental network with 75 member groups and over two million members and supporters around the world.

Our vision is of a peaceful and sustainable world based on societies living in harmony with nature. We envision a society of interdependent people living in dignity, wholeness and fulfilment in which equity and human and peoples' rights are realised. This will be a society built upon peoples' sovereignty and participation.

Thank you to those that provided the images, in order in which they appear: Victor Barro, FOE International, Lyda Fernanda, TNI, Environmental Rights Action, Victor Barro. Design: Somerset Bean.

¹ WorldBank, '100 Top economies', 2010. See <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTUWM/Resources/WorldsTop100Economies.pdf>

² FoE Europe 'Gas Flaring in Nigeria: wasting environment, wasting development, wasting life', 2011 See https://www.foeeurope.org/sites/default/files/publications/FoEE_FactSheet_Gas_flaring_Nigeria_0311.pdf

³ Bank Watch, AT & Partners, 'The reality of EU Energy security Policy- case of Nigeria, 2011

⁴ El Cerrejón, 'Plan de manejo ambiental del proyecto Cerrejón central', 2000.

⁵ In July 2010, the UN General Assembly recognized the right of every human being to have access to sufficient water for personal and domestic uses. See: www.un.org/en/globalissues/water/

⁶ Jan Willem, 'The financing of Wilmar International', Profundo, 2013

⁷ New Internationalist, 'Land Grabs' March 2013 from Matrix database, 2013

⁸ Amy Westervelt, The Guardian, Lawsuit against El Salvador mining ban highlights free trade pitfalls, 2015