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1606 Corporate Justice Working Group News - June 2016

1. Business and Human Rights: The world is still Waiting for Action

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) were approved in June 2011, pledging to address the adverse impacts of business activities. The UNGPs are only as effective as our governments allow them to be. Five years later, a multitude of human rights and environmental scandals continue to surface. The alarming scale and serious nature of the abuse taking place globally makes effective action on business and human rights an urgent matter. [Read More](#)

2. Madagascar: A mine destroying the biodiversity of the coast

Representatives of the world's most notorious mining companies met at the 'Responsible Extractives Summit' in London on 21 and 22 June. The World Rainforest Movement exposed the environmental destruction and human rights violations this industry is responsible for with the release of a new article about a biodiversity offset project used by Rio Tinto to greenwash destruction of a rare forest at the company's ilmenite mine in Madagascar. [Read more](#)

3. EU Conflict Minerals Law: A missed opportunity

On 15 June the EU arrived at a compromise on the Conflict Minerals Regulation. Unfortunately, the proposed deal lacks ambition and is unlikely to improve conditions for communities suffering from harmful mineral trade. The EU is a huge market for minerals both in raw and processed form. The stated objective of the law is to break the links between trade in tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold (3TG) and human rights abuses and the financing of armed groups. However, it remains to be seen if this political compromise will actually contribute to cleaning up these trade flows as it exempts the majority of companies trading in these minerals.

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