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It is Time for Canada to Act: Justice for the MOUNT POLLEY MINE DISASTER

More than four years ago, the tailings pond at the Mount Polley copper mine breached. The shock is still felt today.

In August, 2014, 25 million cubic meters of mine tailings and toxic water burst out of the Mount Polley copper mine dam, flooded into Polley Lake and poured down Hazeltine Creek. Tailings sediment and mine water ended up in pristine Quesnel Lake. The lake is vitally important to BC's annual return of sockeye salmon. People have relied on clean drinking water from the lake for hundreds of years and the area is culturally and spiritually important to the Secwepemc and surrounding Indigenous peoples.

To date, the company responsible for the mine has not been penalized, fined or faced criminal charges for its role in the disaster. In fact, the company was subsequently granted a permit to discharge mine waste water into Quesnel Lake against the community's and Indigenous peoples' wishes.

The disaster affected drinking water, fishing, food harvesting and tourism in the area. Several Indigenous communities in the disaster zone have not been able to fish for four years over fear of heavy metals contamination.

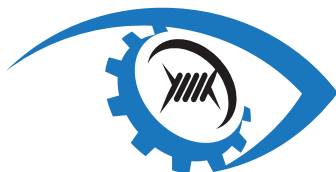
An independent study conducted for the First Nations Health Authority revealed that 22 communities in the area experienced impacts on food security, health, and culture.

The UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) noted the disproportionate and devastating impacts of the disaster on Indigenous peoples and called on Canada to provide health studies, food and drinking water security, remedy and reparations to those affected.

The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights called for those responsible to be held to account.

A criminal investigation into the disaster is being carried out by the RCMP and the departments of Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada. However the investigation may not conclude until August 2019.

It remains to be seen if anyone will be charged.



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TAKE ACTION

It is Time for Canada to Act: Justice for the MOUNT POLLEY MINE DISASTER

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WRITE A LETTER

Please write a letter to Canada's Prime Minister:

- Underscoring that the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has noted the 'devastating and disproportionate' impact of the disaster on Indigenous peoples and has made a number of important recommendations it expects Canada to fulfil.
- Urging him to take all necessary steps to ensure that those harmed by the Mount Polley mine disaster have access to independent health impacts studies, food security, clean drinking water and the remedies that each affected community determines are necessary.
- Reminding him that CERD expected Canada to report on its progress by September 2018, but that it failed to do so. Canada must provide information about how it will remedy the harms people suffered.
- Reminding him that Canada must ensure that decisions around review and approval of large-scale resource development, including permit amendments, are only made with the free, prior, informed consent of Indigenous peoples

Send your letter (no stamp required) to:

The Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

SPREAD THE WORD

If you use Twitter, you can send the following tweet to the Prime Minister:

Please @JustinTrudeau ensure #justice for #Indigenous peoples and other communities harmed by the #MountPolley mine disaster. Independent health studies, food security, & remedy needed to ensure #justice for #WaterProtectors

More information

www.amnesty.ca/mountpolley

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Follow us on Twitter

www.twitter.com/AICanadaBHR

Receive updates from the Business & Human Rights team

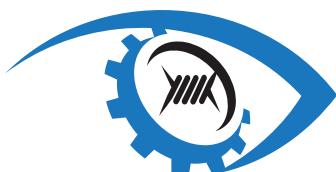
<http://eepurl.com/cCdr15>

Corporate Action Network

BHR@amnesty.ca

Show Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and Settler Communities Harmed by the Mount Polley Mine Disaster!

From September 2018 until July 2019, Amnesty Canada will collect messages of solidarity from people across Canada who are appalled that Canada would ignore the human rights impacts of the Mount Polley mine disaster. Download the instructions and wild salmon printables on amnesty.ca/business



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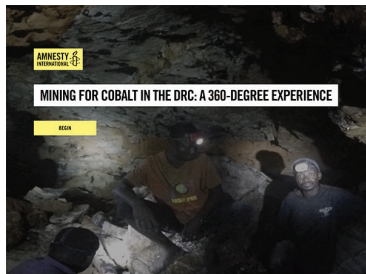
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Is Child Labour Powering Your Electronics?

Amnesty International researchers have discovered that cobalt, a metal used in the rechargeable batteries of portable electronics such as laptops, tablets and cell phones, is being mined by children and adults under hazardous conditions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

TAKE ACTION



Watch our interactive video that will take you on a journey tracing how cobalt mined in the DRC ends up in your everyday electronic products.

360.amnesty.org/cobalt



Many children are involved in mining cobalt in the DRC, including children as young as seven. One child told Amnesty researchers that he would often spend 24 hours in the tunnels. Using rudimentary hand tools without even the most basic protective equipment, miners dig out rocks from tunnels deep underground. Accidents are common. "Many tunnels collapse. The bodies are still there" a miner named Emmanuel told Amnesty.

Amnesty researchers traced the cobalt supply chain and determined that this cobalt is very likely used in batteries in products sold by Microsoft, Samsung, Apple and others. We urged these companies to investigate their cobalt supply chains for human rights abuses and address any issues found, in accordance with international business and human rights guidelines.

When more than 100,000 people signed an Amnesty petition to Apple and Samsung, the companies finally took concrete steps to address the risk of human rights abuses in their cobalt supply chain. Yet Microsoft still fails to provide us with adequate evidence that it is mapping its cobalt supply chain and addressing human rights risks associated with the company's Surface laptops and tablets. Amnesty is concerned about the strong possibility that there is child labour in Microsoft's cobalt supply chain.

POSTCARDS

Help us put pressure on Microsoft by signing one of our postcards. Encourage your friends, family, classmates, colleagues and people in your community to sign them as well. **Order a small bundle of free postcards**

www.amnesty.ca/MicrosoftPostcards



FACEBOOK FRAME

Add a frame to your Facebook profile picture

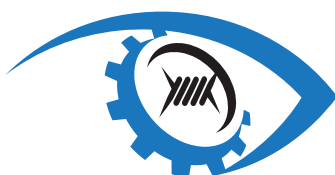
www.amnesty.ca/MicrosoftFacebookAction



STICKERS

Order a free **Warning: May Contain Child Labour** sticker for your laptop

www.amnesty.ca/OrderStickers



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Is Child Labour Powering Your Electronics?

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#BeneathTheSurface



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@AICanadaBHR
Email bhr@amnesty.ca

TAKE ACTION

Create a drawing, photo or video about this issue.

If you use social media, share your visual message using the hashtag **#BeneathTheSurface** and tagging **@Microsoft @KevinPeesker** and **@AmnestyNow**. *Otherwise, send it to:*

Kevin Peesker, President, Microsoft Canada
1950 Meadowvale Blvd, Mississauga, ON, L5N 8L9
kpeesker@microsoft.com

SPREAD THE WORD

Share the following message on Twitter:
.**@Microsoft** Tell me whether Surface laptops and tablets contain batteries made with cobalt mined by children. **#BeneathTheSurface**
@KevinPeesker @AmnestyNow

WRITE A LETTER

Write a letter to Microsoft (*address for Kevin Peesker at left*). Explain who you are and why you care about this issue. Urge Microsoft to publicly disclose on its website the following information: whether cobalt in Microsoft products has been mined by child labourers and the steps taken by Microsoft to verify and address this issue; the names of cobalt smelters in Microsoft's supply chain, as well as their

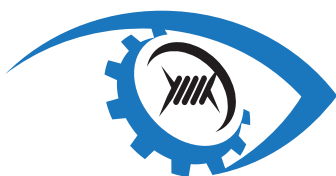
SCREEN A FILM

The powerful documentary film *When Elephants Fight* (directed by Mike Ramsdell and narrated by Robin Wright) draws attention to grave human rights abuses fueled by "conflict minerals" in the DRC. Screen this film using Amnesty's discussion guide to talk about the issue

Warning: Content not suitable for all audiences.

For more information, please email edumitru@amnesty.ca

WHEN ELEPHANTS FIGHT
Inside the war for Congo's Minerals



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