



*"You have to imagine walking around some of these mining areas and dialing back our clock centuries. People are working in subhuman, grinding, degrading conditions. They use pickaxes, shovels, stretches of rebar to hack and scrounge at the earth in trenches and pits and tunnels to gather cobalt and feed it up the formal supply chain."*

Siddharth Kara, author of *Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives*

**Apple products are tainted with the blood of the Congolese people**

Many of the metals vital to the production of rechargeable batteries are mined illegally in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The ore is extracted at the expense of the Congolese people and land—six million people have been displaced by mines, the dust from which poisons the air and water and has killed millions more. Rebel groups who run the mines finance their weaponry by smuggling the ore into neighboring countries where Apple can buy them without directly being involved in the illegal exploitation.

An ongoing history of racism and colonialism have enabled western interests to profit off the back of the Congolese people and land to almost no outrage or intervention from the international community.

**Seeking justice for The Congo**

In April 2024, the DRC began questioning Apple over its knowledge of illegal "blood minerals" in its supply chain.

DR Congo presses Apple over minerals supply chain, lawyers say

By Reuters

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Apple insists its cobalt is sourced from Rwanda, a country with near-zero production of the metal. Despite this obvious inconsistency, Apple executives know that the complexity of the supply chain and inefficacy of our "justice" systems will likely shield them from any real accountability. How is it that after centuries of exploitation, the only avenue the Congolese have for justice is to plead for Apple's honesty?

**Corporations promise us a better future—but who is this future for, and at what cost?**

We're told that "green" technology will be our salvation from the climate crisis, but the production of those innovations depend on the exploitation of the people and land of the Global South. We are all connected: one's better future can not justly come at the cost of another's. Humanity deserves more than capitalism's false promises: think critically about what feels right to you, especially when a corporation is trying to sell you something.

**Greenwashing:** Making misleading statements about your environmental impact to maintain a favorable brand association.

**Support the Congolese people**

Get involved with Friends of the Congo, an advocacy group working to bring about peaceful and lasting change in the DRC, and share what you've learned with your friends.

**Divest from Apple**

It might not be possible to completely remove Apple from your life, but you can still reduce the amount of money you give them, by:

- cancelling or replacing subscriptions to Apple Music, Apple+, etc.
- not using Apple Pay
- keeping your devices as long as possible
- not buying new tech; purchasing used devices locally or on backmarket.com

**How Apple Profits off of Forced Labor in the Congo**