

# MORE LEGISLATION, MORE VIOLENCE?

## THE IMPACT OF DODD-FRANK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

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### Abstract

The Dodd Frank Act was passed by the US Congress in July 2010 and included a provision —Section 1502— that aimed to break the link between conflict and minerals in Eastern DRC. Our research shows that Section 1502 did not achieve its goal. It led to a de facto ban on artisanal mining of tin, tantalum and tungsten (known as the 3Ts) and deprived hundreds of thousands of miners of their livelihoods. Yet, it failed to cut off resources to warlords or do anything to resolve the reasons for their violence. Warlords turned to looting civilians and fighting rival groups for the control of gold mines, as gold is easier to smuggle than the bulky 3Ts. Relying on data from 2011-2015, we found that the monthly incidence of battles, looting and violence against civilians strongly increased in areas targeted by Dodd-Frank. Our findings offer a cautionary tale about potential unintended consequences of well-meaning international interventions.



### Keywords

1. Natural resources
2. Artisanal mining
3. Conflict
4. Dodd-Frank
5. Democratic Republic of Congo

### Output so far

- [“More legislation, more violence? The impact of Dodd-Frank in the DRC”](#). PLoS ONE, 2018. With M. Verpoorten, N. Stoop and P. van der Windt.
- [“Trump threatened to suspend the ‘conflict minerals’ provision of Dodd-Frank. That might actually be good for Congo”](#). Washington Post – The Monkey Cage, 2018. With M. Verpoorten, N. Stoop and P. van der Windt.
- [“Van mijnen in Oost-Congo naar technologie in je smartphone.”](#) Video for the University of Antwerp’s Kinderuniversiteit. Science communication to children aged 8-12, 2021.

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 More info on project [webpage](#)

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