

PRESS RELEASE

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**Anvil Mining's Complicity in Congolese Massacre Exposed
by Australia's Flagship Current Affairs Program**

***Groups call on World Bank to Withdraw Support for the
Dikulushi Copper/Silver Mine***

(Washington, DC): On June 6, the "Four Corners" broadcast exposed Anvil Mining's role in helping the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) put down with disproportionate force and violence a small-scale rebellion. In response, human rights and environmental groups are calling on the World Bank's political risk insurer, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), to withdraw its guarantee for Anvil's Dikulushi copper/silver mine.

UK-based Rights & Accountability in Development (RAID); Congolese human rights groups, Action contre l'impunité pour les droits humains (ACIDH) and ASADHO Katanga; Friends of the Earth-United States; and the Human Rights Council of Australia are also calling on the Australian Attorney General to authorize a full investigation into possible breaches of the Criminal Code Amendment Act 1999 (Australia's law prohibiting bribery of foreign officials in accordance with the OECD Convention on Bribery) by Anvil in its acquisition of the Dikulushi concession.

On October 16, roughly a month after MIGA approved a \$5 million political risk guarantee for the Dikulushi mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the FARDC ruthlessly suppressed a small-scale rebellion that began the two days beforehand in the remote fishing town of Kilwa. The hitherto unknown group calling themselves the *Mouvement Revolutionnaire pour la libération du Katanga* (Revolutionary Movement for the Liberation of Katanga) announced that they had come to liberate the province.

Although the rebels had put up no resistance when soldiers from the 62nd Brigade of the 6th Military Region arrived to recapture the town, the majority of unarmed civilians, including women and children, were killed. According to eyewitness accounts gathered by human rights lawyers, the soldiers went on an indiscriminate rampage carrying out arbitrary arrests and summary killings of suspected rebels and their supporters, raping women, and subjecting those in detention to torture and beatings. It is estimated between 70 and 100 people were killed.¹

Anvil Mining provided logistical support to the soldiers. The town is difficult to access by road, so Anvil planes were used to fly in soldiers from the provincial capital of Lubumbashi. In May 2005, lawyers acting on RAID's behalf, interviewed survivors who confirmed that Anvil had also provided vehicles and drivers to assist in the assault on the town, to transport those arbitrarily detained, and even to remove the corpses of those killed during the military operation.

NGOs charge that MIGA did not give adequate consideration to concerns first raised in June 2004 with MIGA. Those concerns included the propriety of Anvil Mining's relationship with a prominent Congolese political official, Mr. Augustin Katumba Mwanke, and his role in helping Anvil obtain the Dikulushi concession.

However, MIGA accepted Anvil's assurances that no improper payments were made to intermediaries for help in obtaining the concession.² Anvil Mining's contract with MIGA requires the company to give assurances that it has no improper political relationships. The Four Corners program revealed that Mr. Mwanke was on the board of Anvil's Congolese subsidiary.

"MIGA has no option but to immediately withdraw its political risk guarantee for the Dikulushi project" said Patricia Feeney, executive director of RAID. "Moreover, given the failure of governments to investigate the UN's allegations of corporate misconduct in their operations in the DRC during the resource fuelled war, decisive action has to be taken now to curb abuses by companies and to prevent the Congo from sliding back into conflict."

Contacts and further information:

- For media inquiries, contact Richard Meeran, Slater & Gordon Lawyers, RMeeran@slatergordon.com.au and ataylor@slatergordon.com.au, (+61) 0411-156-797. A background briefing document is available.
- Sally Neighbour, the producer of the Australian Broadcasting Company's Four Corners Program about Anvil Mining and the Kilwa Massacre, can provide members of the media with footage and a transcript from the program: sallyneighbour@hotmail.com (<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners>).

¹ ASADHO Katanga, "Rapport sur les violations des droits de l'homme commises a Kilwa au mois d'octobre 2004," Jan 2005

² Correspondence from Moina Varkie, MIGA, Aug 27, 2004