



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Office of Communications and Public Relations

Press Release

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Film Exposing the Illicit Mineral Trade in the Democratic Republic of Congo to be Screened at Ramapo College

MAHWAH, N.J. -- The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Communication Arts program will screen the film, *When Elephants Fight*, at Ramapo College of New Jersey on Monday, October 17, from 2 to 3:40 p.m. in the Trustees Pavilion. The producers will lead a discussion of the film via Skype. The event is free and open to the public.

Narrated and executive produced by Golden Globe award winner Robin Wright (*House of Cards*), this eye-opening film spotlights the illicit mineral trade in the Democratic Republic of Congo and shows how global tech corporations' complicity has affected the continued conflict in the region.

"We are proud that this film shines a light on the illegal and illicit mining practices in the Congo," states Ms. Wright. "We couldn't be happier that the film and the #StandWithCongo campaign is reaching a broad and socially conscious and active audience at Pivot."

The Democratic Republic of Congo is home to some of the world's richest seams of copper, coltan and other minerals increasingly sought after by global electronics manufacturers for use in smartphones and computers. However, like other resource-rich countries in Africa, rather than improving life for the poorest Congolese, billions of trade dollars are redirected to tax havens and to local militias. The illegal mineral trade has fueled a war that has taken nearly six million lives since 1996.

The film is an extension of the #StandwithCongo campaign that mobilizes students and consumer activists to pressure policy makers, stakeholders and investors for greater transparency and accountability in the mining sector of the Democratic Republic of Congo. To take action, viewers can follow #StandwithCongo on social media and text CONGO to 77177. Actor Robin Wright, activist JD Stier of Stier Forward, and director Mike Ramsdell, lead the campaign.

When Elephants Fight is directed by Ramsdell and executive produced by Wright. Janson Media of Tappan, New York handles worldwide distribution.

The screening and presentation are free and open to the public. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 201-684-7409.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers eight graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.