



Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network



*The Pan African Institute for
ConsumerCitizenship and Development*

Koudiadiène, a Mining operation to the test of Texts.

The case study is conducted **in** Koudiadiène (Village district of the town of CherifLô), Senegal, known for its subsoil rich in minerals. It highlights the land acquisition process for mining and **the** consequences **of this mining** activity on the population, local economy, land and the **environment of Koudiadiène**.

The exploitative activities of mining companies in Koudiadiène and the surrounding villages have a socio-economic impact on environment and the rights of local populations. These companies are owned by European groups specialized in the production of fertilizers, and other chemicals. Phosphate mined in Koudiadiène is mainly exported to the European market to be processed to manure, fertilizers or other chemical products.

A. Non-compliance with Senegalese legislation and international principles

We advocate for Responsible investment in Senegal and Africa taking special account of the negative impacts of mining investments on the people koudiadiene and its encouragement of large scale land acquisition with a view to preventing them. This case study demonstrates that the mining operation in Koudiadiène does not respect the *FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* nor the Senegalese legislation (both the mining code and the environmental code).

Some examples of non-compliance by the mining companies:

- Prior consultation of the rural community and the local population (Mining Code and FAO).
- The requirement of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment prior to investment (Mining Code, Environmental Code and FAO).
- The payment of prior and just compensation by mining companies to people affected by the project (Mining and FAO Code) instead of insufficient compensation and delay in payment.
- The local community does not benefit from equalization fund or the environmental rehabilitation funds as stipulated by law (Mining Code).

B. Negative Impacts of Phosphate Mining

B.1. Impact on the health and well-being of the population

Increased risk of diseases (pulmonary and others) because of :

- The emission of toxic dust
- The pollution of farmland, pastures and gardens

"We noticed that our children were returning from school every day completely covered in phosphate dust emitted by the companies active around our village. The health of our children is our main concern. We know that the phosphate dust contains chemical substances that can be toxic."(A mother from Kouidiadiène).

B.2. Impact on Natural Resources, arable land and environment

- The non-rehabilitation of the excavation voids and the environmental damage
- Loss of vegetation and forest species
- Loss of fallow arableland
- Loss of agricultural plantations
- Reduced grazing areas

B.3. Socio-economic Impact

- Pressure on human habitat and risk of relocation of the village. The town site was surveyed and the subsoil would contain significant quantities of phosphate.
- Low job creation for the local youth
- Increasing poverty in the villages affected by the project
- Loss or reduction of revenue formerly derived from gathering activities, agriculture, livestock, exploitation and processing of natural resources

As a consequence of the loss of land, the food security as well as the income of the villagers are threatened because there will be less land for food crops(such as millet and sorghum) and cash crops (such as peanuts).

B.4. Financial Impact

The mining code provides for an equalization fund. The mining activity is subject to tax and royalty payments to the treasury, to be shared among the communities affected by mining projects. If mining companies are paying royalties to the state, the population of Cherif-Lô does not benefit from any financial return for the mining activities carried out on the territory of the rural community.

C. Recommendations

To end the negative impacts of mining projects and the weakening of socio-economic rights of indigenous peoples through land grabbing, the home states of investors and the host states must:

- ❖ Require from any mining investor the realization of an environmental and social impact assessments as well as the presentation of an investment plan to the competent authorities of both home and host countries prior to the investment;
- ❖ Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms by joint committees including representatives of local communities, businesses and government, for these investment plans and results of the environmental and social impact studies.
- ❖ Require compensations for the people affected by mining in developing countries.
- ❖ Demand the European Union (EU) to develop a directive with mandatory requirements for companies regarding the responsible sourcing of raw materials from all developing countries (not only from countries experiencing violent conflict) in accordance with international standards. Indeed, the supply of minerals from conflict-free countries can generate or increase the risk of conflict within these countries.