

SUMMARY OF MILITARIZED COMMERCE

The Coalition on Militarized Commerce (CMC) will push the Canadian Government to adopt policies to deal with the problem of involvement by Canadian companies in what is being called "militarized commerce". "Militarized commerce" includes one or more of the following:

- the acquisition by companies operating in regions with grave human security and human rights concerns of security services from military or para-military forces, groups often implicated in serious human rights abuses;
- the provision by companies of financial, logistical, material or infrastructural assistance to human-rights abusing troops, or their governments, usually in return for protection or access to resources;
- the use of force by human rights abusing-regimes or militaries to supply resources to a company by, for example, clearing people off oil-rich lands;
- the generation of revenues which are used by human rights abusing regimes or militaries to wage war against civilian populations.

At present, militarized commerce is of particular concern in Burma, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Colombia and the countries surrounding the Great Lakes in Africa. There are, however, many other countries where this phenomena is likely occurring.