**Attachment 6a: San and Congo, with reference to the mining corporations and Fracking in the Karoo**.

The oldest known indigenous tribe of Southern Africa is the Bushmen, called The San by The Khoi-Khoi. Western scholars call them the KhoiSan from their Language Group.  Many of the Khoi-Khoi people had moved up north from the Cape, after the colonisers arrived in the Cape forming new group such as the Griqua. They settled in the areas which were harsh to survive in, the deserts of southern Africa and South West Africa (Namibia).

Repeatedly when natural elements considered to be of wealth are discovered in the area inhabited by the KhoiSan, the KhoiSan is displaced and the wealth taken from the land they inhabit without their permission and without compensation.

**Namibia diamond mines**

After the discovery of diamonds during the 1800’s in the Kimberley area, which is situated below South West Africa, the precious mineral bearing veins were followed into South West Africa, and once again, the indigenous people of Southern Africa were attacked and their land annexed by the Crown. These people now live in abject poverty, whilst the mining magnate associates of the Crown, inclusive of the De Beers mining corporation, rape the land of all its wealth. Not only do they take possession of the minerals of the land they invade, but also rule the economies of the land they invade, and have become a law unto themselves. To point, Namibian Mines and Energy Minister Erkki Nghimtina signed an agreement to create the Namibia Diamond Trading Company with Nicky Oppenheimer, Chairman of the De Beers Group. Neither the Minister, nor the Chairman, is of the KhoiSan tribe.

**The modus operandi of the mining corporations**

The modus operandi of the mining corporations remain the same throughout Africa, wherein we can see most clearly what had happened in South Africa, and caused instability amongst the people who live in the land they operate in.

The inhumane Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902, instigated by these same mining interests - to gain control of the mineral wealth of the Transvaal - saw 24,000 Boer children and 3,000 women killed in British concentration camps; and the Boer farm houses, crops and livestock burned down in the British "Scorched Earth Policy".

The Boers thus impoverished after the war, were obliged to find an income where ever they could. Many flocked to work in the mines, which now belonged to the enemy of the Boers, on the land which had been stolen from the Boers.

In 1922, Ernest Oppenheimer fired them overnight, and replaced them with illiterate African workers. Boers had worked for £30.00 a month; the Africans would work for only £3.00 a month.

This substitution represented a saving of £27.00 per month per employee on the wage bill -- an immediate benefit to the company! The subsequent riot by the Boer miners was put down brutally by the British employed General Smuts whose troops, armed with machine-guns, enforced the decision of Mr. Oppenheimer, the London Elite, and the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA), which has directed matters in SA ever since, and upon whose Inner Circle, sat Rothschild and his henchman, Lord Milner.

After the Anglo-Boer War, Milner, whose aim it had been to exterminate the Boers "for ever and ever," declared: "It is no longer war with guns and bullets, but it is war still." So it has been ever since, and is still today, though a new generation of Rothschilds and Oppenheimers now direct matters.

Cyril Ramaphosa, prominent African National Congress member, one of the Black oligarchs created by the Oppenheimer-Rothschild financial empire, was detained in the 1970’s for his work as a black consciousness movement organizer. He had organized and unionized South Africa's mineworkers, who were forced to live in single-sex, military-style barracks under the control of the mining houses.

The Machiavellian Oppenheimer profited from cheap labour under the Apartheid government, forcing his workers to live under these conditions, while simultaneously financially supporting the African National Congress, and developing strong ties to their leaders; this association has paid off very beneficially for the Oppenheimer family as various exceptions to regulations in government have been made by the African National Congress in government to the benefit of the Oppenheimers at the cost of the nation, including astronomical tax concessions, disinvestment by the Oppenheimer conglomerate De Beers, and protection of mining enterprises by the South African security forces, even at the cost of South African lives.

**Mining conglomerates do not contribute to the progress of the country they are in**

Following a trend from 1980, by 1990, just four mega- corporations, mainly mining companies, controlled 82% of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), which represented almost the entire GNP of South Africa: Oppenheimer's Anglo-American (including De Beers) by itself, controlled over 52% of the JSE, however the gold mining companies paid a mere 2.9% of the taxes.1

**Mining corporations forge links with rebel groups in Africa with reference to**

**the Congo**

AngloGold Ashanti, part of the international mining conglomerate Anglo American (Oppenheimer), won the mining rights to the vast gold concession in Mongbwalu, DRC in 1996. Prevented by ongoing war, (until a peace agreement was signed and a transitional government was established in Kinshasa), from gaining access to its claims, the company forged links with the armed group, Nationalist and Integrationist Front (FNI), which retained control of the gold-rich mining site in the north-eastern Ituri district.

Human Rights Watch researchers documented meetings between the company and the armed group leaders. FNI president, Floribert Njabu, told Human Rights Watch, "The [Central] government is never going to come to Mongbwalu. I am the one who gave Ashanti permission to come. I am the boss of Mongbwalu. If I want to chase them away, I will."

**(i) Mass genocide of indigenous people in the Congo**

The mineral-rich North-eastern Congo has been one of the worst hit areas during Congo's devastating seven-year war. Competing armed groups carried out ethnic massacres, rape and torture.

According to United Nations estimates, a local conflict between Hema and Lendu ethnic groups, allied with national rebel groups and foreign backers, including Uganda and Rwanda, claimed over 60,000 lives between 1999 and 2005. These losses are just a portion of an estimated four million civilians dead throughout the Congo, during the same time period, yet artisanal gold mining continued throughout the conflict.

**(ii) Gold smuggled out of the Congo**

Millions of dollars worth of gold is smuggled out of the Congo each year, some of it destined for Switzerland.

One starving miner told Human Rights Watch: "We are cursed because of our gold. All we do is suffer. There is no benefit to us," while a Congolese government official lamented: "We just watch our country's resources drain away with no benefit to the Congolese people." However, Anglo AngloGold Ashanti is showing a huge profit ...but it was this conglomerate which toppled SA's white so-called 'apartheid regime' on 'moral' grounds.2

**Fracking in the Karoo**

In September 2012 it was announced that the African National Congress had given permission for fracking in the Karoo, despite huge protests against fracking in the Karoo by the people who live in that area. To add to this consternation, the KhoiSan who live in the desert areas, depend on the underground water systems for their survival. Fracking not only uses the underground water, but poisons the water once it has been used.

Fracking in the Karoo is a direct onslaught on the lives of the people who live in that area, and should be seen as treason by a government who are allowing for the destruction of the means by which its nation lives. Fracking in the Karoo is further discussed in Footnote 1 – Fracking in the Karoo.

**The KhoiSan is calling for their right to self determination**

The KhoiSan have publically called for their independence from the South African government in 2012 during a peaceful protest during which they handed over their demands to Parliament as was seen on public television.

As yet, the nation has heard no response from the present government.

**References:**

1 Although White individuals constituted only 15% of the population, they contributed 77% of the taxes. The state then spent 45% of all taxes on the Black population, 5% on the Coloureds (mixed race), and 5% on the Indians, but only 38% on Whites. (The Star, 2nd May, 1990)

.2 http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/06/02/congo11041.htm

**Footnote.**

Footnote 1: Fracking in the Karoo.

FRACKING THE KAROO - THE PEOPLE SAY NO!

Somerset East; Jan 31, 2011

“Do you know what fracking the Karoo is like?” demanded Esme Senekal of Somerset East. The people from Royal Dutch Shell and their consultants didn’t reply, their faces impassive.

“It’s like you coming and drilling holes in our mother, and then leaving us to look after her and take her to hospital. Leave the Karoo alone!

**Heaven forbid**

“This is the last piece of holy nature in this country. No money is worth this. You can’t replace pristine nature with money.”

The surrounding sun burnt Karoo farmers, not a group usually given to high emotion, loudly applauded her.

The public meeting, organized by Shell’s consultants, Golder Associates (slogan: “Engineering Earth’s development, protecting Earth’s integrity”), was held at the Somerset East Town Hall, and started with a prayer to protect God’s creation, nature.

Most of the attendees bowing their heads were farmers who face the possibility of losing everything if, heaven forbid, shale gas is found under their farms – or for that matter, anywhere in the Karoo.

The municipality, which has just as much to lose since Somerset East depends completely on groundwater, had sent not a single representative. In fact, most Karoo towns depend wholly on groundwater, as do farmers.

**What the Frack?**

Fracking is simply this: it is a process of drilling 1 to 5 km under the surface to a layer of shale where natural gas is trapped. Using millions of liters of water, sand and an array of chemicals (many of which are carcinogenic, endocrine disrupting or just plain toxic), the rock is repeatedly fractured by high-pressure explosions underground, allowing the gas to be collected. Tens of thousands of wells have been dug in 32 American states, Canada, Australia and many other parts of the world, and a groundswell of popular protest has started.

This is because groundwater has frequently been contaminated as a result, either with methane or the chemicals.

Just Google ‘fracking’ (short for hydraulic fracturing) on the internet and you’ll be hard put to choose between the hundreds of heartrending accounts and YouTube videos from all around the world. Ordinary people who have experienced this method of gas extraction close to their homes have recorded their experiences.

Poison, radioactivity, contamination

They are horror stories. The water coming out of their taps becomes flammable, contaminated with methane and oil, undrinkable. They suffer strange lesions, cancers, tumors. Their livestock is poisoned, sometimes with radioactive substances brought up from underground as waste material. Arsenic and other substances poison their vegetables and crops.

Each account is a little different, but almost every one mentions the fact that the oil and gas companies who came to drill and fracture the earth assured them that it was safe.

Shell did the same to this crowd, but the attendees had done their homework and remained completely skeptical except for one emerging farmer who asked hopefully about job creation.

**No benefits, only risk**

Shell at least had the good grace not to even pretend there will be jobs or any benefit whatsoever to the community. The only ones to benefit will be Government (which owns any and all minerals, gas and oil underground) and Shell, and they admitted as much.

Again and again Shell was asked if they could give an assurance (and to back it with money) that groundwater and therefore the health, livelihoods, communities and towns in the Karoo would not be affected. All Adam Dodson could say was that Shell had never any incident of contamination while doing exploratory fracking.

He also said the Government was the only recourse for compensation of any kind. There was a stifled groan from the crowd.

**Rupert to the Rescue?**

A few of those attending told me they were buoyed by the front page story in the Afrikaans weekly, Rapport (30 January 2011), which had come out the day before. In it, industrial giant Johann Rupert (no stranger to mining, but a man who has property and roots in the Karoo - in particular the Graaff-Reinet area) pinned his colors to the mast.

“We are not against responsible exploration or extraction; we are against Russian roulette.”

Rupert gave his assurance that he and his family will be fully involved in the battle against Shell to the bitter end, and added they will not be using Shell products.

Not a Clue

Wherever public meetings have been held in the Karoo (including Graaff-Reinet and Hofmeyr), angry community members asking pertinent questions came away with nothing.

According to Adam Dodson, Shell’s Unconventional Oil & Gas Exploration Manager (New Ventures), they still have no idea where the millions of liters of water needed for fracking will come from. Possibilities at this stage included treated surface water (for which read sewage), deep saline aquifers or seawater trucked in by train.

They also could not say which of the chemicals would be used underground, what quantity remained underground after fracking (in other parts of the world, between 20% and 40% have been found to remain).

In fact, Shell and Golder made it clear there would be no real answers at all – this was just the first phase of a very long campaign.

“You’ll be seeing us a lot,” Tisha Greyling of Golder Associates assured the discontented crowd.

**The Karoo lives on Groundwater**

Also present at the meeting was Ernest Pringle, president of Agri-Eastern Cape and a farmer in the affected district. He stood up in front of the meeting to emphasize the importance of groundwater. The recent crippling drought in the Bedford and Somerset East region was just a reminder, he said.

“I spent all my time trying to pump up more groundwater to keep going. So we want to know with certainty what the effects will be to the underground water supply.”

When asked if there was any kind of possibility that contamination could happen, Dodson pursed his lips and looked down.

Dr Fiona Brown, who also farms nearby, implored Shell to use the precautionary principle.

**Radioactive Karoo**

“You know nothing about the Karoo’s groundwater and how aquifers are interconnected. No one does. And you don’t know what can go wrong.”

Shell and Golder representatives were unmoved. Tisha Greyling of Golder conceded that there will, inevitably, be unhappy people.

One of the things that can go wrong of course is that the Karoo is riddled with uranium, and the chance of raising radioactive waste rock to the surface is better than excellent.

Still, despite the complete lack of information coming from Shell or Golder Associates, a few eyebrow-raising facts did come through. One was that Shell was not alone in wanting to frack the Karoo. Just south of their concession was Falcon Oil & Gas’s one. This American company received a permit from the Petroleum Agency of South Africa late last year.

**Attack of the Falcon**

Their concession area covers a slightly narrower band than Shell’s band including the towns of Merweville, Leeu Gamka, Rietbron, Jansenville and Aberdeen. Sasol and other companies are looking at another broad swath northwards, including Bloemfontein and surrounds.

Also, they revealed that the long term plan for the gas was that it would be used for power stations to be set up across the Karoo (with the attendant power lines, substations and the rest).

After the repeated entreaties for Shell to drop the bid or to rather look into solar and wind energy, the last ominous word on the matter came from Tisha Greyling of Golder Associates.

“If it’s not Shell, it will be someone else.”

**Famous on Facebook**

Popular Karoo writer and photographer Jonathan Deal has opened a [Facebook group called chase SHELL OIL out of the Karoo!](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_185633661460206&ap=1) Within 24 hours, hundreds of people from all over South Africa and beyond signed on as supporters of this group.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE IN BOOK FORM:

BUNDLE 1: Attachments 1 - 3 <https://www.createspace.com/4392573>

BUNDLE 2: Attachments 4 - 8 <https://www.createspace.com/4398589>

BUNDLE 3: Attachments 9 - 10 <https://www.createspace.com/4416061>

BUNDLE 4: Attachments 11 - 14 <https://www.createspace.com/4400727>

BUNDLE 5: Attachments 15 <https://www.createspace.com/4415962>

BUNDLE 6: Attachments 15a <https://www.createspace.com/4497969>

BUNDLE 7: Attachments 16 - 18 <https://www.createspace.com/4415984>

BUNDLE 8: Attachments 19 - 26 <https://www.createspace.com/4416010>

BUNDLE 9: Attachments 27 - 30 <https://www.createspace.com/4416021>

BUNDLE 10: Brief <https://www.createspace.com/4437109>

BUNDLE 11: Brief Concordance <https://www.createspace.com/4497991>

BUNDLE 12: Attachment 15b, update of

genocide records, 2013 will be available

during April 2014 on <https://www.createspace.com/4498007>