

Angola is a country rich in natural resources – primarily crude oil and diamonds. Angola’s economy is one of the fastest growing in the world, and the oil industry is the backbone of the economy, supporting over 80 percent of government revenue and about fifty percent of the GDP. Yet like many resource-rich countries in the Global South, Angola’s distribution of revenues from the exploitation of oil have not benefitted the majority of its citizens, two thirds of whom still live on less than two dollars a day.

Angola is recovering from a 27-year civil war, and efforts to rebuild physical infrastructure and weakened political and social institutions continue. Following independence from Portugal in 1975, fighting ensued between the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), led by President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos who, after 32 years in power, remains in the presidency and who relies heavily on petro-dollars to maintain power.

The oil industry in Angola is an opaque business. Calls for more transparency, accountability disclosure of oil revenues are met by government intimidation and repression. Both the government para-statal oil company, Sonangol, and the multinationals operate in the country with great impunity to environmental damages and impacts to local community’s livelihoods, social and economic rights. Publicly, the government has repeatedly pronounced its commitment to transparency and accountability. While the country is striving to seemingly turn to democracy, many citizens believe that the oil industry is the source government corruption and malpractice and is impeding pro-poor development.

This project will focus on furthering a qualitative assessment of the existing legal framework governing the oil industry and the environment, as well existing mechanisms and institutions that regulate, monitor oil operations and protect local communities’ rights. The fellow will also help craft and implement advocacy initiatives in support of local demands for transparency, accountability and that guarantee their social, economic and cultural rights. The project will be a desk study based in the Bay Area (*i.e.*, no travel required).

**Tasks required:**

- Conduct desk-based research and assist in investigations
- Monitor media reports
- Craft reports and briefings
- Contribute to implementation and development of an advocacy strategy

**Qualifications:**

- Graduate level student
- Demonstrated commitment to protecting human rights and the environment, particularly in post-conflict countries
- Independent and creative thinking skills
- Excellent legal, policy and corporate research and writing skills
- Ability to handle sensitive information and protect the confidentiality of our work and communications
- Well-organized, self-motivated, and ability to work both independently and in a cross-cultural team
- Experience living or working in Southern Africa is desirable, but not required
- Proficiency in Portuguese is highly desirable

**Fellowship Opportunity**

Interested applicants may seek to carry out this project with funding from the Human Rights Fellowship program. Regular application procedures apply; this project will be evaluated under the same criteria and priority level as all other fellowship applications. Human Rights Fellowship application and FAQs available at <http://hrc.berkeley.edu>. The name of the partner organization has been purposefully withheld. Please direct specific questions regarding this project to the Fellowship Director at [kreed@berkeley.edu](mailto:kreed@berkeley.edu).

The Human Rights Fellowship application deadline is February 23, 2012 at 4pm.