RESEARCH BRIEFING



A little while ago you received some information from an activist (John Dove) who is battling the government of Petronia to lower the output of fuel extraction in the Roile River Delta due to the environmental effects.

Fossil fuel extraction in Roile State, in the south of Petronia, is not without its critics because of its effects on traditional communities and the environment of the Roile River Delta. After looking into the information provided you have noticed that it is also unclear where the proceeds in taxes and licenses of the petrochemical industry go to. Government offices have never responded to your requests for more information. Furthermore, while harbouring most natural resources, Roile state is impoverished and the local population does not see much back of its riches, besides the diminishing flora and fauna.

Rumour has it that several government officials including Sheen Estevez (minister of foreign affairs) and Desta Rahal (minister of international trade) have made private deals with petrochemical companies to enrich themselves. The national government and the prime minister (Sarah Sadal) do not seem to monitor the situation or keep oversight.

By documenting the effects of fossil fuel extraction, you aim to hold the government of Petronia and the petrochemical corporations to account. You and your colleagues aim to expose the network of financial streams between the petrochemical industry, local politicians and the government. Additionally, you want to understand what funds from the petrochemical industry are flowing back to Roile state, its citizens and the environment.

It is clear that you have a difficult task at hand. The influence of the petrochemical companies is large due to the high overturn and therefore the capabilities of corruptive acts. One of the journalists in your company has invited a friend/ journalist from Barama to help out during the investigation. The company also brought in a consultant to help the team with this project. Last, but not least: an ambitious young journalist who is new to the job and an environmental activist has joined the team.

