

Congo is the largest supplier of tin, tungsten, and tantalum—minerals widely used in the production of mobile phones and computers. However, according to UN experts and human rights organizations, many artisanal mines where these materials are extracted are controlled by armed groups involved in crimes against civilians. This pushes activists to urge companies to stop using these “conflict minerals.”

It is expected that the investigative judge appointed for this case will make a decision on possible violations based on the investigation. One of the lawyers representing Congo said the judge is considered experienced and competent.

Apple, in turn, categorically denied the accusations. In December 2024, the company stated that it had previously instructed its suppliers not to use minerals mined in Congo or Rwanda in its products. Congo’s representatives noted that they welcome Apple’s statement but leave the issue open.