

Relationship of Extractive Industry to Exploitation of Nations: A Graphic Reality

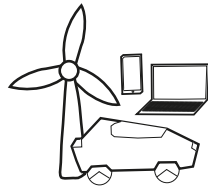
By Irene Delfanti
Consulting Communications Specialist

ABSTRACT

Transnational and domestic corporations engaged in the exploitation of lands, resources and peoples in indigenous territories poses a challenge to understanding the complex relationships between the businesses, states' governments, militias and gangs, indigenous communities, poverty, climate change, shortages of food and water and environmental degradation. "Extractive industries are generally unregulated inside the country where they are a registered business or in the country where they engage in resource exploitation. As a matter of reality while a few corporations engaged in resource exploitation many attempt to avoid adverse consequences of their business, most do not. The principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is available to corporations to smooth relations with indigenous nations through negotiations, but most do not.

To help describe the effects of unregulated corporate exploitation of resources in indigenous territories now operating in 63 countries according to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund we present diagrams to illustrate the web of relationships between Extractive Industry and the social, economic, political, cultural and security realities of indigenous nations and their territories. A general web of relationships and then (1A) relationships of profit and power, (2A) relationships to the prostitution of women, (3A) relationships to corporations not obtaining the negotiated consent of nations to access resources and land and the lack of civil lawsuits, and (4A) relationships to indigenous nation leaders. We provide a legend for graphic characters used in the corporate webs to further explain the relationships.

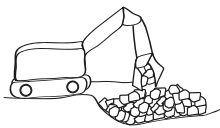
Legend



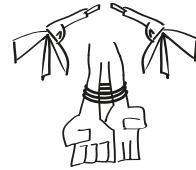
Products



Climate Change

Environmental
Degradation

Financial gains

Water & Food
Shortages

Violence



No Health Standards



Land



Banks



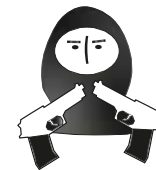
Corruption

Law in company
home country

Violation of FPIC



Groups of men



Gangs



Governments



Prostitution

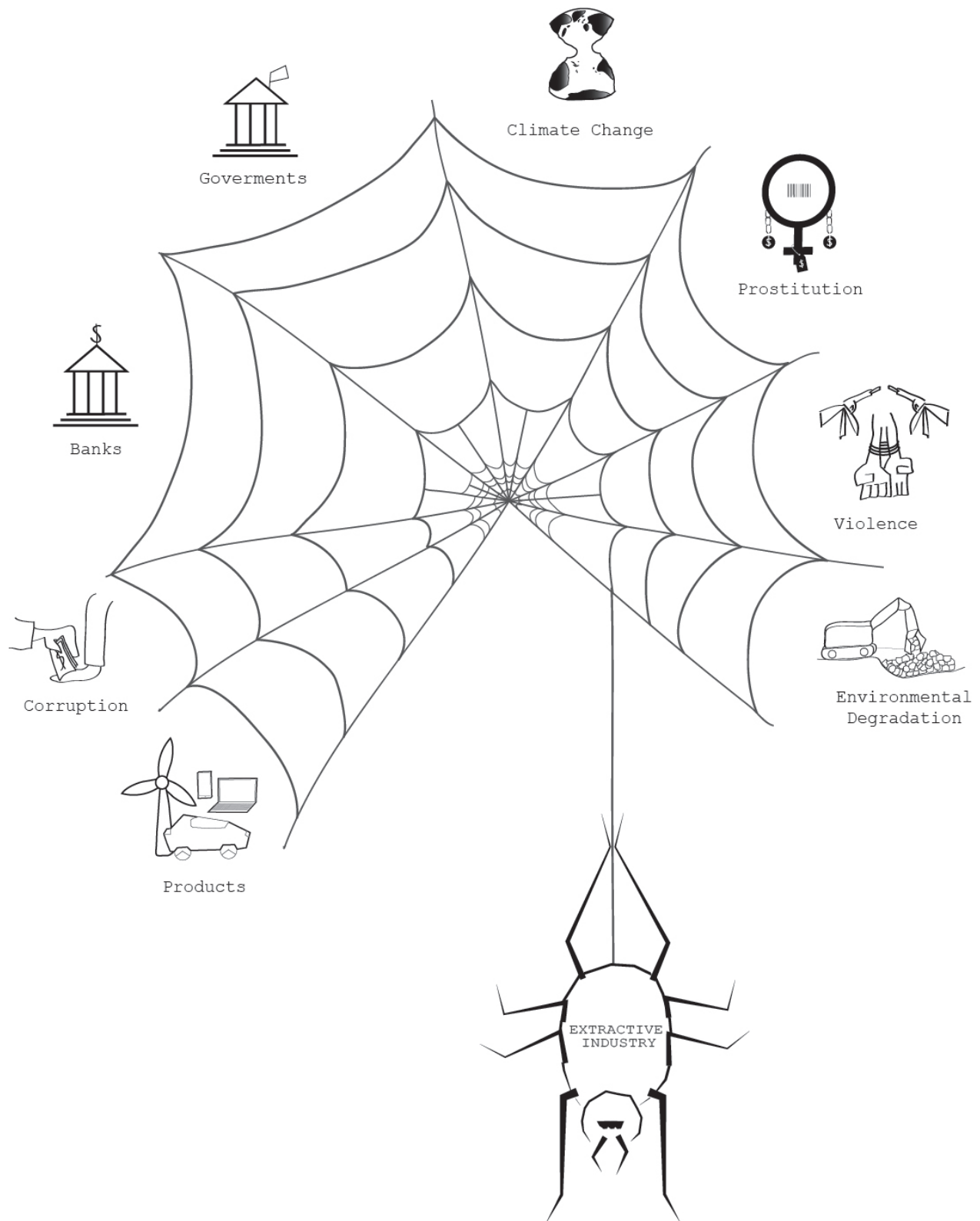


Poverty

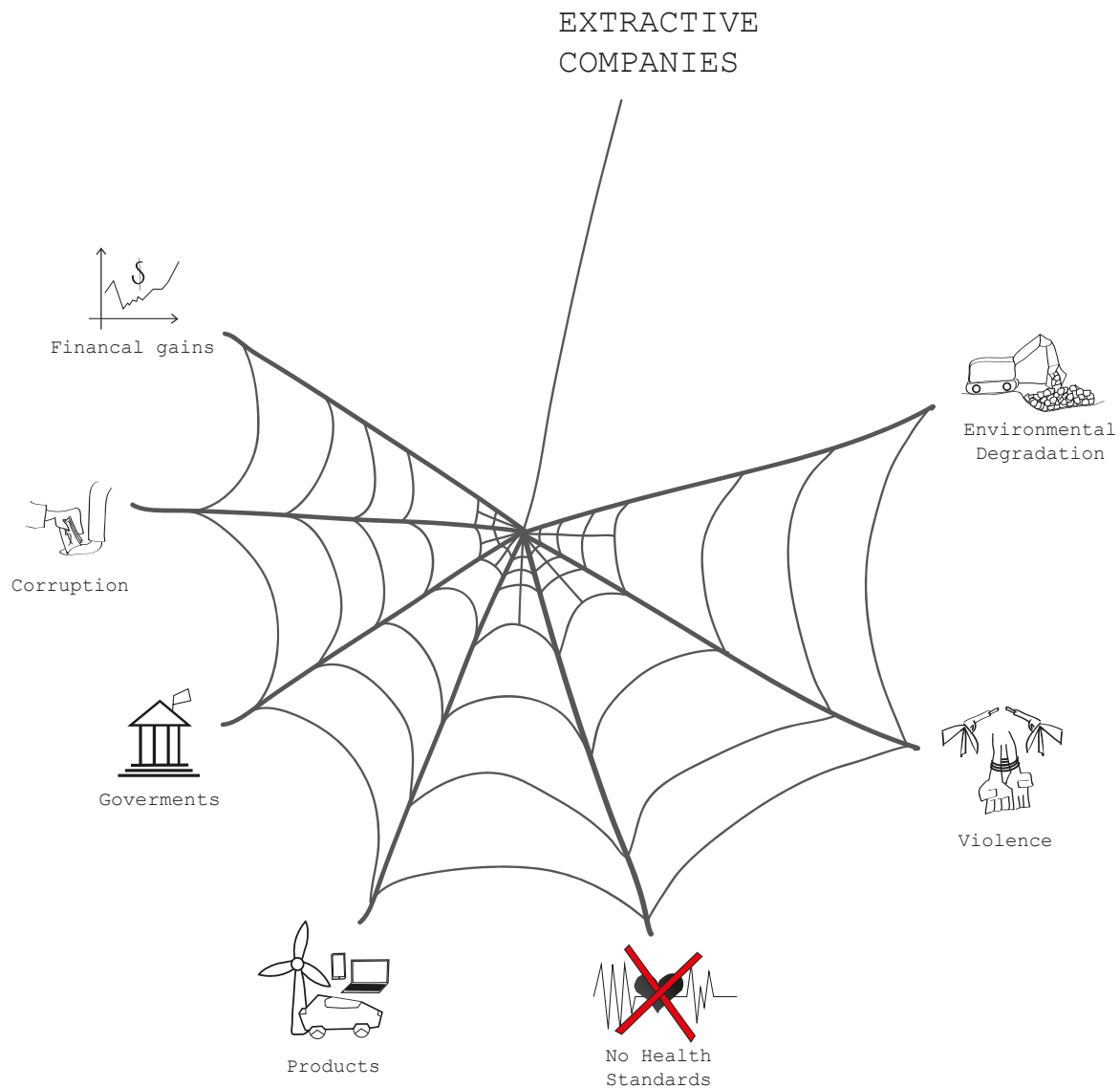


Company decisions

General



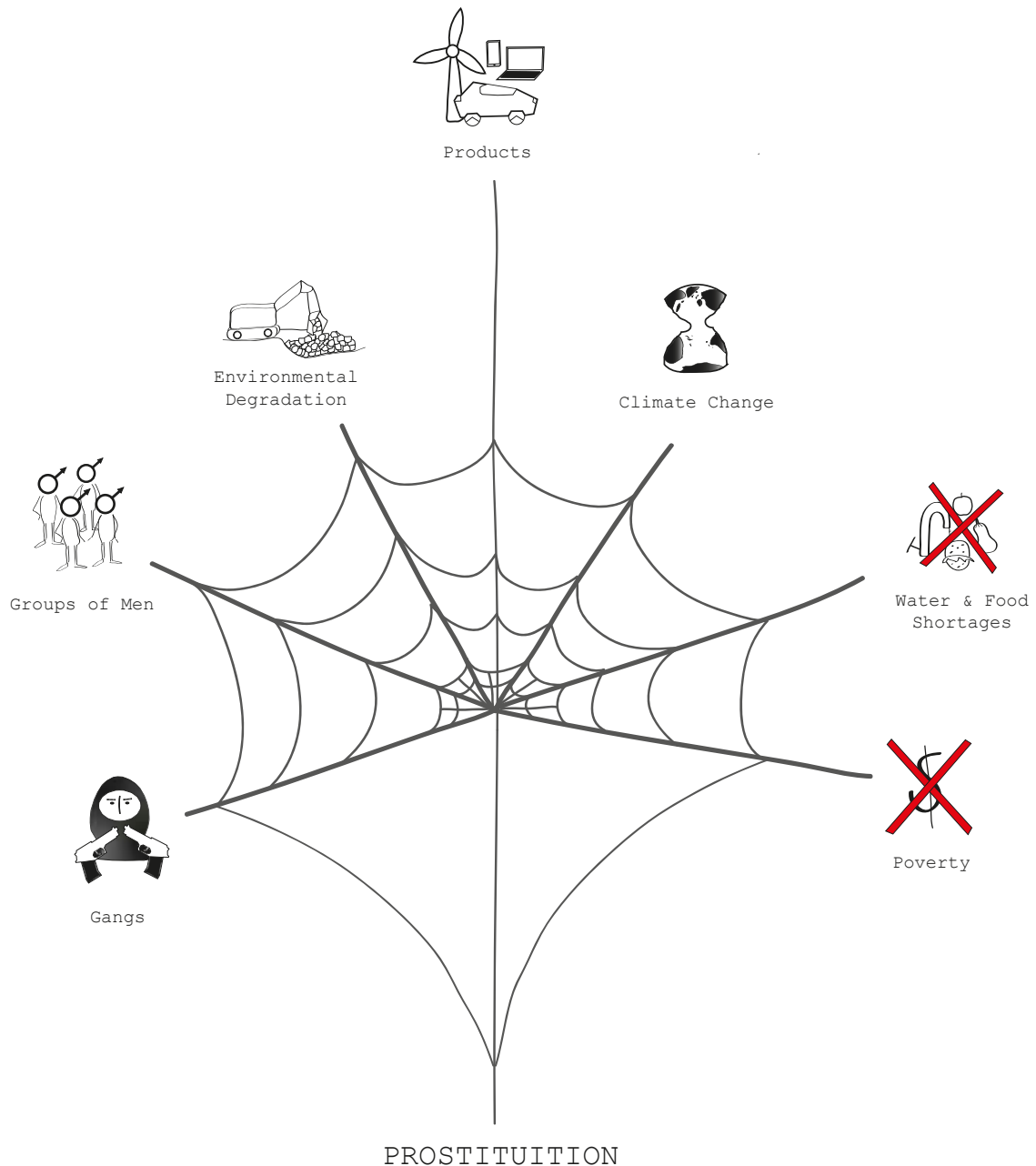
1A



Extractive companies operations are based on profit and power. Banks, privates, and other companies invest into them, and in turn extractive companies invest into shares of others. It is not unusual for a company to fully own another one, hence effectively profiting from operating in an area while their name is partly hidden.

Extractive companies are also very intertwined with political powers, borrowing money to governments and lobbying. Inside and around mining sites it is common to find: increased violence, modern slavery and prostitution, as well as a lack of care for people's health and environmental standards.

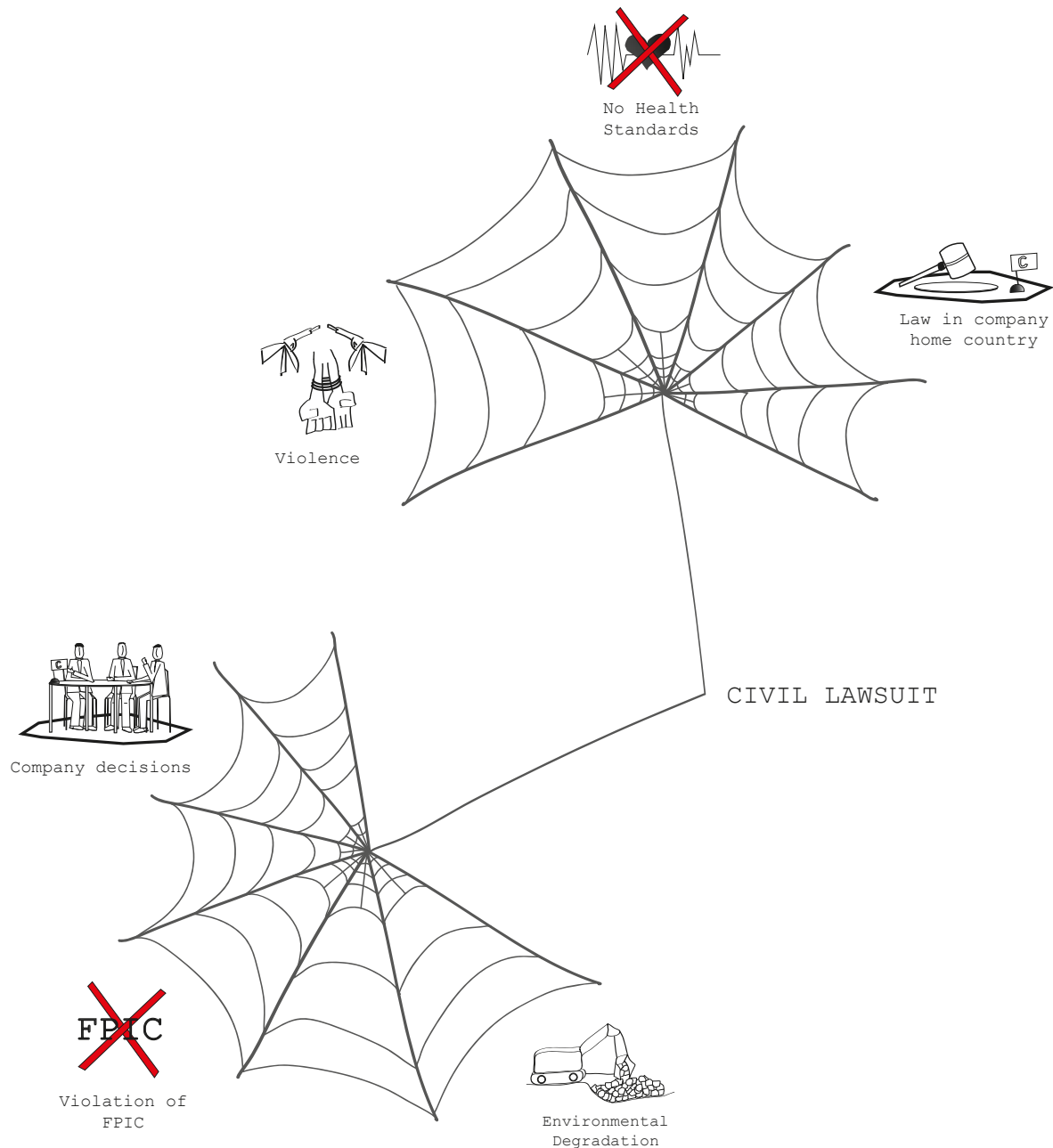
2A



Where extractive operates, the safety of women is at risk. When a site opens, groups of men are called to work there and companies effectively encourage sex trafficking by taking women from nearby villages.

Once the companies leave, the effects do not stop. Increased poverty and/or the deterioration of land bring to food shortages and droughts, which in turn put women in front of the choice of starvation vs selling themselves.

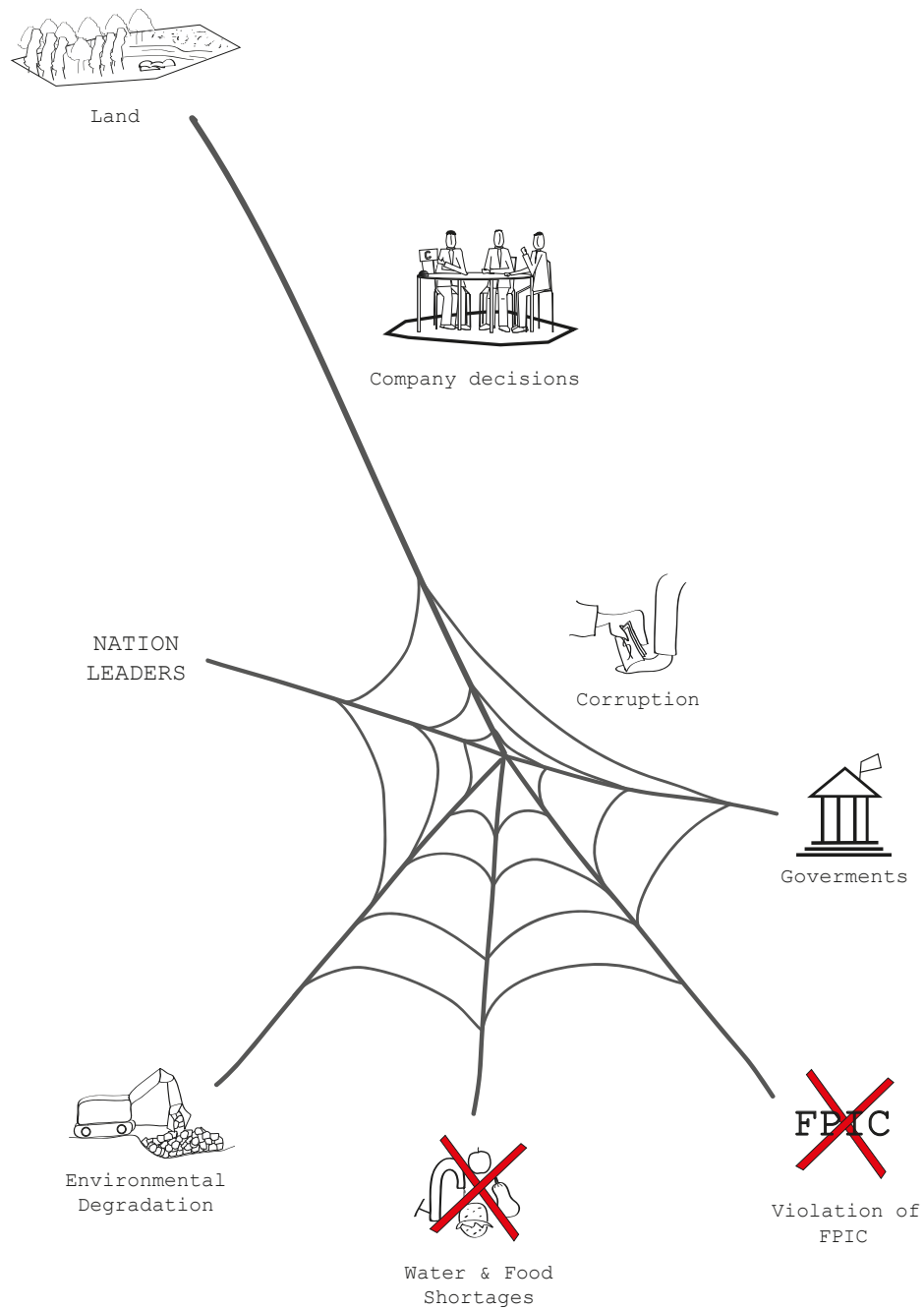
3A



Extractive companies are not currently implementing FPIC, and their activities often increase the level of violence in a place, while lowering health standards (from directly exposing people to hazard at work or by leaks and other type of accidents).

Although the legal system in the countries where they operate may not side with workers, and appealing to countries where the companies are registered through a civil lawsuit can be a way to hold people in power accountable.

4A



When a company or the government gets interested in land, it may offer money to nation leaders and communities in exchange for the right to operate in the territory.

When this happens and the agreements made do not fulfill the FPIC policy and other communities rights, the land and the people on the territory are still at risk.

This Article may be cited as:

Delfanti, I. (2022) Relationship of Extractive Industry to Exploitation of Nations: A Graphic Reality. *Fourth World Journal*. Vol. 21, N2. pp. 44-51.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Irene Delfanti

Irene is a designer and a recent graduate from the MA Design for Change at the University of Edinburgh. Her work focuses on how design methodologies contribute in enhancing social and environmental justice. Her experience includes credits in the arts and entertainment industry, activism and policy. Born near the Italian Alps, she is now to be found in Scotland.