

A film by
COSIMA DANNORITZER

PRESS KIT

THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

Illegal recycling – a toxic business on a global scale

A MEDIA 3.14 - YUZU PRODUCTIONS production in coproduction with ARTE FRANCE - AL JAZEERA ENGLISH TELEVISIÓN ESPAÑOLA - TELEVISIÓ DE CATALUNYA with support from the MEDIA PROGRAMME OF THE EU - DMC - PROCIREP written and directed by COSIMA DANNORITZER produced by FABRICE ESTÈVE - CHRISTIAN POPP - JOAN UBEDA

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THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

MEDIA 3.14 (Barcelona)
YUZU PRODUCTIONS (Paris)
present

in coproduction with
ARTE FRANCE
AL JAZEERA ENGLISH
TELEVISIÓN ESPAÑOLA
TELEVISIÓ DE CATALUNYA

in collaboration with
LICHTPUNT (Belgium) - RTS (Switzerland)
SVT (Sweden) – TG4 (Ireland) - YLE (Finland)

with the support of
THE MEDIA PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
CNC - PROCIREP - ANGOA

a documentary by
COSIMA DANNORITZER

THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY



THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

Credits

Title	THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY
Genre	Documentary
Running time	86 and 52 min
Format	HD 1080/50i
Synopsis	Every year, up to 50 million tons of electronic waste - computers, television sets, mobile phones, household appliances - are discarded in the developed world. 75% of this waste disappears from the legal recycling circuits, with much of it being dumped illegally in the Third World, where it destroys landscapes and harms lives. This film takes the viewer on a journey of investigation to Europe, China, Africa and the US and reveals a toxic global trade fuelled by greed and corruption.
Written & directed by	Cosima Dannoritzer
Executive producers	Christian Popp - Fabrice Estève - Joan Úbeda
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/ewastetragedy



THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

Synopsis

Every year, up to 50 million tons of electronic waste - computers, television sets, mobile phones, household appliances - are discarded in the developed world. 75% of this waste disappears from the legal recycling circuits, with much of it being shipped illegally to India, China or Africa. Illegal recycling and waste dumping is a multi-million dollar business, polluting the environment and destroying the lives and health of those forced to live with it.

This film takes the viewer on a breathtaking journey of investigation to Europe, China, Africa and the US. It reveals how the European recycling system, plagued by lack of controls, greed and corruption, leaks like a sieve to shady international exporters; how harbour officials in Europe and Asia are fighting a losing battle against the immense volume of e-waste crossing the oceans; why the US are the biggest exporter in the world; and how whole cities in China are literally drowning in our discarded appliances, where they are recycled with a total disregard for the environment or the future. As a result, recycled and damaged computer chips are creeping into the production lines of electronics that control key aspects of our lives, such as public transport, creating a huge security risk in the process.

Can the toxic tide be stemmed, or are too many people willingly turning a blind eye?

THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

Contributors by location

Ghana (Africa)



MIKE ANANE

Environmental journalist



ANAS AREMEYAW ANAS

Journalist

Anas always works incognito and never shows his face in public.

United Kingdom



Councillor DAVID BLACKBURN

Green Party
Leeds City Council



ALAN CHARLES

Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire



JULIAN NEWMAN

Campaigns director
Environmental Investigation Agency

THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY



JOHN KENNY

Scottish Environment Protection Agency
(SEPA)



PHIL CONRAN

Waste management consultant
360 Environmental

Spain



BELÉN RAMOS

Director of environmental department
Spanish consumers' association OCU



MANUEL TORRALBA

Public prosecutor for environmental crime
Court of Zaragoza, Spain



MARÍA JOSÉ HERNANDO

Collection point manager (Burgos)



RAMON ALTADILL

Sales manager
Electrorecycling

THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

Brussels



JOE HENNON

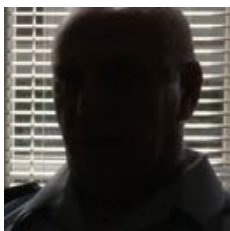
Spokesperson for the Environment
European Commission



ALLEN BRUFORD

Deputy director
World Customs Organization

France



Captain DANIEL DABLEMENT

OCLAESP (French environmental police)



THIERRY DEHAN

DREAL (French regional environment agency)
Champagne-Ardenne, France



FRANÇOISE WEBER

Triade Electronique/Véolia

THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY



DAVID HIGGINS

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CHRISTIAN BRABANT

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Engineer
TQ-Systems



STEVEN JETER

Director, Central Security & Investigations
Infineon Technologies AG



ULF WINTERFELDT

Superintendent
Hamburg Harbour Police



HELGE HÜNER

Quality control department
TQ-Systems

THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

Hong Kong



VINCENT WONG
Superintendent
Hong Kong Customs



LAI YUN
Greenpeace China



JEFFERSON AMAKIRI
CEO
B-Man Global



H-C
Nigerian trader



DIXON
Spokesperson
Traders' association "African Community Hong Kong"

THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

Shenzhen (China)



IAN LESNET

Founder & CEO
Dangerous Prototypes

United States



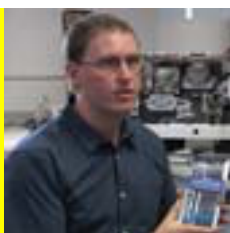
JIM PUCKETT

Founder & director
Basel Action Network



CRAIG LORCH

Managing director
Total Reclaim



KYLE WIENS

Founder & CEO
iFixit.org

THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

E-Waste Facts

The industrialized countries produce between **20 and 50 million tons** of e-waste every year.

E-waste is the **fastest-growing waste stream**, as the number of electronic items in our lives grows continuously.

In **2013**, worldwide, nearly **50 million** flat-panel TV sets were sold, **300 million** PCs, and **two billion** mobiles and smartphones.

The **main destinations** for illegal e-waste exports are Africa, China, Eastern Europe, India and the Philippines. Fast becoming popular amongst illegal exporters: South America.

Since 2010, the number of containers arriving every month at Tema Harbour, Ghana's main port, has risen from **300** a month to between **450** and **600**.

The World Customs Organization estimates that **10%** of the world's container trade consists of dangerous and illegal goods; this includes **e-waste**.

The European Union estimates that **two thirds** of Europe's e-waste is not recycled properly and at authorized recycling plants.

Between **20** and **50** e-waste containers leave the US every single day.

Up to **100** e-waste containers leave Germany for Ghana every week.

The UK produces up to **1.4 million tons** of e-waste a year. It is estimated that **10%** are exported, which is around **100,000** tons.

63,000 containers arrive at Hong Kong Harbour every single day. Up to **100** are estimated to contain e-waste.

E-waste contains, amongst other things, **silver, gold, copper, lead** and a whole palette of valuable materials gleaned from **rare earths**.

From **50,000** mobile phones, **1 kg of gold** and **10 kgs of silver** can be extracted, worth about **40.000 Euros**. But only **1%** of mobile phones are currently recycled in Europe.

Europe currently spends **130 billion Euros** a year on the import of **strategic metals**, even though some of this demand could be covered by recycled e-waste.



THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

The new European e-waste directive was passed in **January 2012**. European member states have had until **February 2014** to implement the new directive in their national laws.

When a European consumer buys an electronic or electrical appliance, the purchase price includes a recycling levy for the end-of-life recycling of the item. Depending on the country, this is up to **20 Euros**.

The Basel Convention - an international treaty prohibiting the export of toxic waste, including e-waste - was signed from **March 1989** onwards by **190 countries**. Of these, only Haiti and the US have still not ratified it.

It is **illegal** to export e-waste. It is **legal** to export functional second-hand equipment. Many exporters exploit this loophole, as the difference between 'functional' and 'e-waste' is often not clearly visible.

Ghana has signed the Basel Convention but has **no national laws** prohibiting the import of e-waste.

There is an **avalanche** of e-waste waiting to happen, as most of us store 'invisible' e-waste inside our homes, in garages, attics and drawers, consisting of discarded electronics that we haven't handed in to a recycler yet.

35,000 brokers are selling re-furbished computer chips on the Internet or at electronics markets. The market is estimated to be worth **100 billion Euros** a year.

E-waste is freely traded on Internet platforms such as **www.alibaba.com**.

THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

CV Cosima Dannoritzer



Cosima Dannoritzer (Dortmund, Germany, 1965) is a documentary filmmaker specialising in history, ecology and the relationship between technology and society. She has been making films for broadcasters in the UK, Germany and Spain since 1992.

The E-Waste Tragedy (2014) is her latest work. Her previous documentary, *The Light Bulb Conspiracy*, about the history and impact of planned obsolescence was distributed to more than 30 territories and has won ten international festival

awards.

Previous productions include *El que la brossa ens diu (If Rubbish Could Speak*, TVE, 2003, 30 min), winner of several awards at environmental film festivals; *Germany Inside Out* (2002), a series produced for BBC & YLE, which is still widely distributed; *Rebuilding Berlin* (Channel 4, 1992, 52 min), winner of the Journalism Prize of the Anglo-German Society in 1993.

She is also the co-writer of a book about the history of planned obsolescence (*Kaufen für die Müllhalde*, Orange-Press, 2013).

Cosima is currently working on a film about the effects of speed and acceleration on society.

THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

Credits

Written & directed by	Cosima Dannoritzer
Executive producers	Joan Úbeda - Fabrice Estève - Christian Popp
Camera	David Attali - Jean-Luc Bréchat - Carla D'Arnaude - André Dekker - Hervé Glabeck - Andrew Lone - Aurélie Macedo - Marc Martinez Sarrado - Cristina Monclús - Daniel Novo - Michele Orlando - David Ramos - Claire Robiche
Editing	Dragomir Bajalica
Head of production	Pilar Razquin
Production managers	Andrea Ulied - Malik Menaï
Development producer	Eva Peris
Sound recordists	Chris Barker - Diego Casares - Ole Förster - Eric Leung - Esther Marquina - Mickaël Roche - Nicolas Samarine - Gianne Tognarelli - Zita Zhong
Graphics	Asier Lasa
Colour correction	Dimitri Darul
Sound mix	Mickaël Roche - Alex Vilches - Txetxu Álvarez
Narrator	Sarah Davison
Music	Laurent Sauvagnac
Script consultant	Gilbert Arroyo
Assistant editors	Jonatan Díez - Anna Llort - Camille Lucas - Aurélie Noury Julienne Marucco - Xavi Viñas
Archive research	Véronique Lambert de Guize, CQFDOC
Additional research	Meritxell Costejà - Aurélie Macedo
Production assistants	Eléonore Boissinot, Marc Vargas
Technical support	Lluís López - Ludovic Fossard
Administration	José Luis Alcaraz - Nathalie Beaslas
Legal advisors	Helena Fernández - Elena Sota
Interns	Ruifang Hua - Ana Rey
Fixers	David Attali (Hong Kong) - Andrew Lone, Zita Zhong (Shenzhen) - Yasin Salazar (London)
Translator	Simon Sun Shengxiang

THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

Archive sources

a&o buero filmproduktion GmbH - Agencia Atlas (Grupo Mediaset España) - Atelier des archives / Journeyman Pictures - Basel Action Network - CBS News / BBC Motion Gallery - City of Orlando - City of Seattle - DangerousPrototypes.com / Where Labs, LLC - Diario de Burgos - El País - El Periódico de Aragón - El Punt Avui - Environmental Investigation Agency - Getty Images - Greenpeace - Guardia Civil - Hong Kong Customs - Institut National de l'Audiovisuel - Infineon Technologies AG - Keystone L'Union l'Ardennais - Local World Limited - Lu Guang - Office Central de Lutte contre les Atteintes à l'Environnement et à la Santé Publique (OCLAESP) - Parlement Européen, Unité audiovisuelle - Rocky Mountain PBS / I-News - Sky News - Small Dog Electronics - SNCF Médiathèque (SARDO) - Tiger Eye Pi - TQ-Systems GmbH - Umicore

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THE E-WASTE TRAGEDY

Weber, Stéphane Galfre - Trinity Mirror Printing - Anna Úbeda -
Christian Unverzagt - Visible Record - WCO, Daniel Moell - Kyle
Wiens - Lai Yun

The Artist-in-Residence Programme of the Medienboard Berlin &
Goethe-Institut Hongkong

a production by

MEDIA 3.14 - Joan Úbeda
YUZU PRODUCTIONS - Fabrice Estève, Ségolène Fossard,
Christian Popp

in coproduction with

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AL JAZEERA ENGLISH - Com. Editor Flora Gregory
TELEVISION ESPAÑOLA - Andrés Luque
TELEVISIÓ DE CATALUNYA - Joan Salvat, Muntsa Tarrés

in collaboration with

TELEVISION SUISSE ROMANDE (TSR) - Unité des Films
Documentaires Irène Challand / Gaspard Lamunière
LICHTPUNT - Wim Van Rompaey
SVT - Axel Arnö
YLE - Jenny Westergård
TG4 - Micheál Ó Meallaigh
CONGOO - Paul Pauwels

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Photo credits

File name	Content	Credit
E-WASTE 01.jpg	Discarded mobile phone casings awaiting recycling in a workshop in Guiyu, China	Basel Action Network
E-WASTE 02.jpg	E-waste in a recycling workshop in Guiyu, China.	Basel Action Network
E-WASTE 03.jpg	Recycling of computer chips in Guiyu, China.	Basel Action Network
E-WASTE 04.jpg	Environmental journalist Mike Anane investigating the e-waste dumpsite of Agbogbloshie in Ghana, Accra.	Media 3.14
E-WASTE 05.jpg	The Chinese activist Lai Yun discovers US e-waste dumped near Hong Kong.	Media 3.14
E-WASTE 06.jpg	Belén Ramos, in charge of environmental projects at the Spanish consumers' association OCU, shows one of the satellite trackers used to detect how Spanish e-waste is diverted from the legal recycling route.	Media 3.14
E-WASTE 07.jpg	E-waste thieves robbing a public collection point near Barcelona.	Media 3.14
E-WASTE 08.jpg	French environmental police raiding an illegal storage facility for e-waste.	OCLAESP
E-WASTE 09.jpg	Officers of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency inspecting a container suspected to be filled with e-waste.	Media 3.14
E-WASTE 10.jpg	Helge Hüner from TQ-Systems in Germany performs a quality check on a microchip, using an x-ray scanner.	Media 3.14
E-WASTE 11.jpg	“OFICIAL” IMAGE OF THE DOCUMENTARY (POSTER IMAGE) Chinese workers at a recycling workshop in Guiyu, China.	Lu Guang
E-WASTE 12.jpg	E-waste container as seen under the x-ray scanner of Hong Kong Customs Chinese workers at a recycling workshop in Guiyu, China.	Hong Kong Customs