

Research Report

Issue:	The issue of conflict diamonds
Forum:	Economic and Social Council
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**Definition of the issue:**

Conflict diamonds also known as so called Blood Diamonds are diamonds used to fund violent conflicts. They're often illegally sold in conflict areas. The United Nations define conflict diamonds as "...diamonds that originate from areas controlled by forces or factions opposed to legitimate and internationally recognized governments, and are used to fund military action in opposition to those governments, or in contravention of the decisions of the Security Council." The term conflict diamond appears from recognizing these diamonds as raw material of conflict due to the fact that they are the reason for a conflict being longer and more intense than it would be without.

**Geographical situation and countries involved:**

As you can see above the conflict zone is more or less associated with the country Africa, particularly Western and Central Africa. 2/3 of all diamonds are produced in African conflict zones.

**Background information:**

There have been five major conflicts in recent history concerning the issue of conflict diamonds in African states. These conflict states cover Sierra Leone, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (and Zimbabwe).

Sierra Leone: In the 1990s exporting levels of conflict diamonds hit its peak. Also deaths due to conflict diamonds had reached their highest level. Conflict diamonds have been used to finance an illegal income of rebel armies and to illicit fund terrorist groups in the country, because of a common disaffection with the government. Corruption and misadministration had ruined the country throughout the years. Diamond sector had also been run down and Sierra Leone happened to be one of the poorest countries of the world when the conflict began. Thus a great connection between abundance of raw material and conflicts on the one hand side as well as a bad administration and less development on the other.

Angola: From 1974 to 2001 rebels fought in a civil war fund by conflict diamonds. When the UN recognized the issue of conflict diamonds in Angola, they passed the first UN resolution (United Nations Security Council Resolution 1173), which specially mentioned Diamonds in a context of war, in 1998. However the resolution banned the

purchase of conflict diamonds from Angola, the rebels managed to still trade some diamonds in order to finance their war. This remaining issue of illicit conflict diamond trade led to other UN resolutions and actions such as the Kimberly Process.

Cote d'Ivoire: When a coup overthrew the government in 1999 a civil war started and Cote d'Ivoire became a route for conflict diamond trade. In order to stem illicit diamond exports the nation stopped diamond mining and the UN took actions in order to prevent the civil war from lingering for the only reason of making money with conflict diamond export by using the country's insecure situation.

Democratic Republic of Congo: since the 1990s the country of the Democratic Republic of Congo suffered under different civil wars. It is a member state of the Kimberly Process and thus profits from its official diamond production.

In addition:

Zimbabwe: There is also not much of a conflict, but dispute about the country Zimbabwe due to the Maragne diamond fields, although Zimbabwe diamonds are not considered as conflict diamonds by the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme and diamonds found in the Marange fields are described as conflict-free, there are still discussions whether this decision might be changed.

**Timeline of Conflicts:**

The following are three major conflicts that happened in younger African history involving conflict diamonds:

“Sierra Leone

**1991** -- Former army Corporal Foday Sankoh leads Revolutionary United Front (RUF) attacks on Sierra Leone border towns from Liberia.

**1992** -- RUF starts to target civilians in Sierra Leone, their hallmark being amputations. 120,000 flee to Guinea.

**1994** -- RUF takes over Sierra Leone diamond areas. The capital Freetown is threatened. More than 50,000 have been killed and about half the country's 4.5 million people have been displaced.

**1995** -- RUF beaten back from Freetown and diamond areas liberated.

**1996** -- Sierra Leone elections marred by RUF violence. Ahmed Tejan Kabbah becomes president. RUF and Kabbah sign a peace accord.

**1997** -- Soldiers release 600 prison inmates and seize power to form the Armed Forces Ruling Council. Kabbah flees. Major Johnny Paul Koroma, a former coup plotter, becomes chairman and invites RUF to join government.

**1998** -- ECOMOG (Economic Community Cease-fire Monitoring Group) launches offensive on Freetown driving out AFRC/RUF. Kabbah returns. Sierra Leone armed forces disbanded. AFRC/RUF continue to attack towns and villages throughout country. U.N. peacekeepers sent in.

**1999** -- AFRC/RUF attack Freetown killing 6,000 civilians before ECOMOG push them back. Peace settlement agreed. Foday Sankoh given role in government. U.N. approves 6,000 peacekeeping force.

**2000** -- RUF kidnaps 500 peacekeepers. UK sends in paratroopers. Sankoh detained. U.N. imposes global embargo on diamond exports from Sierra Leone.

### Angola

**1992** -- After 14 years of civil war, elections held and MPLA win, but a presidential runoff is required as the vote is closely split between MPLA's Eduardo do Santos and UNITA's Jonas Savimbi. Election result rejected by UNITA before second election, and civil war continues.

**1993** -- U.N. reports up to 1,000 people dying every day, more than in any other conflict in the world at the time.

**1994** -- Lusaka Protocol is signed, but fighting continues. Joint Commission set up comprising the U.N., government and UNITA, with U.S., Portugal and Russia as observers.

**1996** -- Fighting continues in diamond areas.

**1997** -- Serious violations of the cease-fire, including attacks on civilians by both UNITA and the government. U.N. freezes UNITA bank accounts and closes their overseas offices.

**1998** -- Fighting escalates. Both sides lay mines around their positions including diamond reserves. U.N. prohibits export of unofficial diamond exports.

**1999** -- Diamonds worth \$150 million produced in conflict areas and \$468 million from non-conflict areas.

### Democratic Republic of Congo

**1997** -- Laurent Kabila wins power.

**1998** -- Civil war revived by rebel movement backed by Rwanda and Uganda, which control diamond area.

**1999** -- Official production of diamonds worth \$396 million.

**2000** -- Army claims Rwandan and Ugandan troops have "massacred" civilians around the diamond area in the east of the country. "

(<http://edition.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/africa/01/18/diamonds.timeline/>)

**Organisation's involved:**

UN General Assembly

UN Sanctions Committee

World Trade Organization

**Other interesting Organizations:**

DDI (Diamond Development Initiative)

Europe (in terms of regulation of the diamond industry and its support of the Kimberly Process)

World Diamond Council

Civil society organizations supporting the Kimberly Process as for example: Partnership-Africa Canada

**Resolutions and actions taken:**

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1173

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1176

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1295

UN resolution 55/56

UN resolution 56/263

UN resolution 57/302

UN resolution 58/290

UN resolution 59/144

UN resolution 60/182

UN resolution 61/28

UN resolution 61/589

### The Kimberly Process:

The Kimberly Process started with a meeting of South African Diamond Producing member states in Kimberly in May 2000 in order to discuss possibilities to stop the trade of conflict diamonds and to ensure that purchases of diamonds were not financing violent rebel movements and terrorist groups trying to undermine legitimate governments. The United Nations General Assembly created in November 2002 the so called Kimberly Process Certification Scheme. This Kimberly Process Certification Scheme set rules in order to control rough diamond production and trade.

The Kimberly Process is an open convention for every country that is willing and able to enforce the requirements given in the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme. The Kimberly Process has 54 participants, representing 81 countries and is also supported by organisations such as the EU, the World Diamond Council and by civil society organizations, such as Partnership-Africa Canada.

### **Tasks for delegates:**

Is your country particularly involved or beside a country involved?

Is your country interested in blood diamond trafficking?

Inform yourself about terrorist organisation that might be in connection with your own country concerning the issue of conflict diamonds.

How far does your country agree with the Kimberly Process?

Can you think of different ways to fund terrorist groups in conflict zones or how to prevent them from acting as terrorist organisation?

How could the problem of terroristic actions be solved?

How might the problem of misadministration and absent development be prevented by the UN?

Can you imagine better ways to help a country prosper and bring democracy?

Is democracy even the best solution to think of?

**Useful sources:**

<http://www.timetoast.com/timelines/12724>

[http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What\\_is\\_the\\_main\\_goal\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_Nations?#slide=1](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_is_the_main_goal_of_the_United_Nations?#slide=1)

<http://www.emergingmarkets.org/Article/1244586/How-to-make-a-nation-prosper.html>

<http://www.kimberleyprocess.com/>

[http://search.un.org/search?ie=utf8&site=un.org&output=xml\\_no\\_dtd&client=UN\\_Web\\_site\\_en&num=10&lr=lang\\_en&proxystylesheet=UN\\_Website\\_en&oe=utf8&q=conflict+diamonds](http://search.un.org/search?ie=utf8&site=un.org&output=xml_no_dtd&client=UN_Web_site_en&num=10&lr=lang_en&proxystylesheet=UN_Website_en&oe=utf8&q=conflict+diamonds)

<http://www.kimberleyprocess.com/node/49> (here you can check, whether your country is a partner of the Kimberly Process or not)

<http://www.ddiglobal.org/>

<http://infoagr.am/BLOOD-DIAMONDS-79?src=web>

**Sources:**

[http://www.google.de/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.goldworks-nc.com%2FGoldworks%2FNew%252520Folder%252520\(2\)%2Fdiamonds.jpg&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.goldworks-nc.com%2Fconflict%2520diamonds.htm&h=777&w=954&tbnid=0zBro8Q2tN3JeM%3A&zoom=1&docid=thHnNbXMpeFACM&hl=de&ei=u3hzU4WmINHc4QShi4HADg&tbm=isch&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=50&page=1&start=0&ndsp=18&ved=0CFsQrQMwAQ](http://www.google.de/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.goldworks-nc.com%2FGoldworks%2FNew%252520Folder%252520(2)%2Fdiamonds.jpg&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.goldworks-nc.com%2Fconflict%2520diamonds.htm&h=777&w=954&tbnid=0zBro8Q2tN3JeM%3A&zoom=1&docid=thHnNbXMpeFACM&hl=de&ei=u3hzU4WmINHc4QShi4HADg&tbm=isch&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=50&page=1&start=0&ndsp=18&ved=0CFsQrQMwAQ)

<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blutdiamant>

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/business-and-human-rights/oil-gas-and-mining-industries/conflict-diamonds>

[http://www.google.de/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.diamondsourceva.com%2FEducation%2Fimages%2Fmap-diamond-mines.gif&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.glogowskidiamonds.com%2Flang\\_en%2Feducation-conflict-free-diamonds-definition&h=265&w=450&tbnid=GF9qEC5r9fqo3M%3A&zoom=1&docid=hiJkXyXhb0mqdM&hl=de&ei=c3xzU6HQNKSO4gSfnoGoCA&tbn=isch&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=1226&page=1&start=0&ndsp=19&ved=0CH8QrQMwDQ](http://www.google.de/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.diamondsourceva.com%2FEducation%2Fimages%2Fmap-diamond-mines.gif&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.glogowskidiamonds.com%2Flang_en%2Feducation-conflict-free-diamonds-definition&h=265&w=450&tbnid=GF9qEC5r9fqo3M%3A&zoom=1&docid=hiJkXyXhb0mqdM&hl=de&ei=c3xzU6HQNKSO4gSfnoGoCA&tbn=isch&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=1226&page=1&start=0&ndsp=19&ved=0CH8QrQMwDQ)

<http://sicherheitspolitik.bpb.de/index.php?page=konfliktrohstoff-diamanten>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/africa/01/18/diamonds.timeline/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood\\_diamond#Zimbabwe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood_diamond#Zimbabwe)

<http://infogr.am/BLOOD-DIAMONDS-79?src=web>

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/62/plenary/diamonds/bkg.shtml>

<http://www.kimberleyprocess.com/en/about>