

## Open Letter from NGOs to the Kimberley Process Chair

3 November 2006

Mr. Kago Moshashane  
Chair, Kimberley Process  
Gaborone, Botswana

Dear Mr. Moshashane,

We are writing to express our grave concerns about the trade in conflict diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire and the urgent need for the Kimberley Process to take strong action.

The recent UN Panel of Experts report on Côte d'Ivoire has found that with likely collusion of dealers in Belgium and Israel, a significant volume of conflict diamonds are entering the legitimate trade and being certified as conflict-free. Poor controls are allowing conflict diamonds to enter the legitimate trade through Ghana, where they are being certified as conflict-free, and through Mali.

This conflict trade seriously undermines the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process in its aim to prevent the trade in conflict diamonds and to protect the legitimate diamond industry. The findings of the UN Panel report demonstrate the urgent need for stronger government controls in the region and better systems for identifying shipments of rough diamonds in international trading centers.

The Kimberley Process must demonstrate at its upcoming annual meeting in Botswana in November 2006 that it has closed the loopholes here and elsewhere, or it will be in danger of becoming irrelevant.

We call on the Kimberley Process governments to take the following immediate steps to combat this problem:

- Ask Ghana to voluntarily suspend all diamond exports until adequate controls, endorsed by the Kimberley Process, can be put in place. If Ghana will not do this, it should be suspended from the Kimberley Process;
- Develop an adequate system of mining inspection, credible independent audits of diamond dealers and exporters in alluvial diamond producing and trading countries and consider the detailed recommendations made in the UN report;
- Require that all participants in the Kimberley Process must undertake spot check audits of diamond companies to ensure their compliance with the scheme.
- Actively support and help build the capacity of civil society groups in these countries to monitor these efforts.

The Kimberley Process must demand stronger and more comprehensive government controls across the diamond pipeline to ensure that conflict diamonds cannot enter the legitimate diamond trade. It is also crucial that those members of the diamond industry who continue to trade in illicit and conflict diamonds must be held to account. Without tough government controls and better oversight of the diamond industry, the Kimberley Process will be little more than a paper exercise.

Given the millions of lives lost from diamond-fuelled civil wars, we urge the Kimberley Process to take strong and concerted actions to ensure that diamonds never again fund conflict and to bring about greater transparency and accountability in the diamond sector.

Sincerely,

**Amnesty International**

Shane Kelleher

**L'Aurore**

Aboubacar Akoumba Diallo

**Centre du Commerce international pour le Développement**

Bakary Fofana

**Centre National d'Appui au Développement et à la Participation populaire**

Baudouin Hamuli Kabarhuza

**Civic Response**

Kyeretwie Opoku

**Coalition pour le Plaidoyer Anti-Corruption et la Transparence en Côte d'Ivoire**

Kouamé Kouakou Patrice

**Comité de Liaison des ONG du Congo**

Eugène-André Ossete

**Commission Permanente Pétrole N'Djaména**

Nassingar Rimtébaye

**Concertation des Femmes pour la Transparence et la Bonne Gouvernance**

Léonie Kiangu

**Conseil Ivoirien des Producteurs de Café Cacao**

Akpetou Kouamé Lazare

**Droit et Devoir Démocratique**

Julien Kouadio Tingain

**Earthworks**

Radhika Sarin

**Eden International.**

Michel Yoboue

**Friends of the Earth - US**

Roxanne Lawson

**Global Witness**

Corinna Gilfillan

**Green Scenery**

Joseph Rahall

**Gremio ABC**

Kinsukulu Landu Kama

**Groupe d'Appui aux Exploitants des Ressources Naturelles**

Félicien Mbikayi

**Institute for Dispute Resolution**

Pastor Innocent Adjenuhure

**Ligue Congolaise de lutte contre la Corruption**

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**Publish What You Pay US**

Sarah Pray

**Rural Foundation for Gender and Development**

Bonnie A. Ohia

**Save the Children UK**

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**Secours Catholique/ Caritas France**

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