

Zimbabwe's Diamonds and Human Rights – Putting the Kimberley Process to the test

28 September 2011, 11am to 1pm (followed by a light lunch)

Heinrich Böll Foundation, Beletage, Schumannstraße 8, 10117 Berlin

The Kimberley Process (KP) for rough diamonds is an internationally unique certification scheme. It is supposed to ensure that only conflict-free rough diamonds are traded on the world market. In pursuit of this end, governments, industry and civil society collaborate within the KP to monitor diamond trading chains. This approach was long considered to show the way forward for other natural resources. But the KP is in crisis. Because they did not see any chances for the success of recent reform efforts, civil society representatives walked out of the last KP Intersessional meeting.

Zimbabwe showcases many of the challenges the Kimberley Process is currently facing. Since the Zimbabwean military gained control over the Marange diamond field in 2008, grave human rights violations have repeatedly occurred. The question of how to deal with the situation in Zimbabwe has led to disputes within the KP, not least because it raises more general issues: Can the KP ignore such grave human rights violations? Is the definition of conflict diamonds as those diamonds which finance rebel groups too narrow? Is there any chance for reform within the KP?

With our guests from Zimbabwe and London, we want to discuss the situation on the ground and the prospects of the Kimberley Process more generally.

- **Dewa Mavhinga**, Coordinator of the Regional Office of Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, Johannesburg/South Africa
- **Farai Maguwu**, Executive Director of the Centre for Research and Development, winner of this year's Human Rights Watch Human Rights Defenders Award, Mutare/ Zimbabwe
- **Mike Davis**, Global Witness, London/ UK
- Moderation: **Lili Fuhr**, Heinrich Böll Foundation

The event will take place in English.

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