

## Zimbabwe 'blood diamond' trade talks collapse

Should Zimbabwe be allowed to resume diamond sales? That's the question delegates from 70 countries at talks in Israel recently had to decide. The organisation that controls the international diamond trade failed to find an answer after allegations of human rights abuses in Zimbabwe's mines. Members of the watchdog, known as 'the Kimberley Process', said discussions had been 'clouded' by the arrest and imprisonment of a human rights activist. Farai Maguwu had alleged that forced labour, rape, torture and harassment were being used to develop Zimbabwe's new lucrative Marange diamond mines. Zimbabwe's ability to export Kimberley certified diamonds – 'the Kimberley Process' – was suspended after the army seized control of Marange, allegedly massacring up to 200 miners two years ago. The country has accused the west of trying to hold back its economic development. The diamonds from the Marange field could see the country become one of the world's top six exporters of diamonds and generate US\$1.7bn a year. But human rights groups want Zimbabwe to remain banned from selling "blood diamonds" – *those which are used to fuel a conflict.*

At its annual meeting in Tel Aviv 'the Kimberley Process' chairman Boaz Hirsch announced: "We could not reach consensus regarding the work at Marange." A statement said: "As such, the meeting ended at an impasse." Mr Hirsch: "Further talks on whether to lift the worldwide ban on Zimbabwe diamonds will take place next month in the Russian city of St Petersburg." The organisation angered human rights groups in June when a monitor it appointed to assess the mining operations at Marange said Zimbabwe had met the minimum conditions to resume exports. At the end of June a Zimbabwean judge denied bail to Mr Maguwu after he was arrested for "peddling falsehoods" about the diamond trade. Non-governmental organisations such as *Human Rights Watch* and *Global Witness* said the Zimbabwean army continues to carry out widespread abuses in the area and is smuggling diamonds onto the open market. The Zimbabwean government plans to sell diamond stockpiles from Marange regardless of the Kimberley Process decision. The organisation was set up in 2002 after the diamond trade was accused of fuelling conflicts in Africa.

**Category: Zimbabwe / Blood diamonds / Kimberley process**

**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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## EXERCISES

1. **Blood diamonds:** Briefly, what three things do you know about **blood diamonds**? Go round the room swapping details.

2. **Geography: Zimbabwe:** Where is Zimbabwe? What is its capital? What countries surround it? Who is its President? Who is its Prime Minister? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

3. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - we need to do some work!

4. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

5. **Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

6. **The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) **What's the latest on this story?**
- d) **What is 'the Kimberley Process'?**

7. **Let's think: Diamonds and music:** In *pairs/ groups* think of as many songs or artists with the word *diamond* in them. Write your findings on the board.

8. **Diamonds are a girl's best friend v Diamonds are forever!** Marylyn Monroe thinks 'Diamonds are a girl's best friend'. But according to Shirley Bassey 'Diamonds are forever'. Which song is better and why? Listen and watch for a minute or so to both songs. Then think of three things about each artist/song.  
Marylyn Monroe:- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZtGybjFjOU>  
Shirley Bassey:- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doAy4Ivcidg&NR=1>

9. **Let's discuss:** Diamonds are a girl's best friend & Diamonds are forever! After listening/watching the songs in pairs discuss the following:-

- |  |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Diamonds are a girl's best friend</li><li>2) Diamonds are forever</li></ol> |
|--|

Think of at least three things about each song title. Are they true?

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

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10. 'Diamonds from Sierra Leone': Kanye West: As a class watch about a minute or so of the following link from YouTube: 'Diamonds from Sierra Leone' sung by Kanye West: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92FCRmggNqQ>. The teacher will then go round the class discussing what you have seen. What do you think about the video?

11. Let's think! Swap partners. With your new partner on the board think of as many uses for '**diamonds**' as you can. Write them on the board. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

12. Let's talk! In a pub: *In pairs*: Imagine you are in a pub. The conversation gets onto **Blood diamonds**. Discuss. *5-minutes*.

13. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

**Student A**

- 1) How many countries were at the diamond talks?
- 2) Which country was the annual meeting held in?
- 3) Name the non-governmental organisations.
- 4) What did the Zimbabwean judge say?
- 5) What year was 'the Kimberley Process' set up?

**Student B**

- 1) Who has been imprisoned? Why?
- 2) How many miners were massacred by the Zimbabwean army?
- 3) What do the human rights group want?
- 4) Name the diamond field in question.
- 5) What did Mr Hirsch announce?

14. Annual meeting Kimberley Process Tel Aviv: In pairs/groups. Look at the list below. Each person chooses to be one of the following people before, during and after the recent annual meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel, of 'the Kimberley Process' delegates. Create a short story about it. Tell it to your partner/group. Try to make it interesting! Students try to interlink student storylines!

- |                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Chairman Boaz Hirsch     | 3 Belgium diamond dealer       |
| 2 Investigative journalist | 4 Zimbabwe government minister |

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

15. Let's write! An e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Blood diamonds**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

16. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) 'Blood diamonds' \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Zimbabwe \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Diamonds \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What can the UN do about stopping Zimbabwe's **blood diamond** exports?
- 3) Would you buy a **blood diamond**? Why? Why not?
- 4) Would you like to go to Zimbabwe? Why? Why not?
- 5) Would you like to visit a diamond mine? Why? Why not?
- 6) Would you like to work in a diamond mine? Why? Why not?
- 7) What do you think of the forced labour, rape, torture and harassment going on in the Zimbabwean diamond mine?
- 8) Aren't the illegal **blood diamonds** from this Zimbabwean diamond mine simply propping up the Zimbabwean regime of Robert Mugabe?
- 9) Do the representatives in 'the Kimberley Process' actually care about what's going on in the Zimbabwean diamond mine? After all, they're losing money aren't they?
- 10) How does this story differ from others – e.g. like what happened in Sierra Leone?

### Student B questions

- 1) 'Diamonds are forever' was the movie title of which famous spy - starring who as the spy?
- 2) What was the name of the movie about **blood diamonds**?
- 3) Do you have any diamonds?
- 4) What do you think of 'the Kimberley Process'?
- 5) Do diamond dealers care about where diamonds come from?
- 6) What do you think of the shocking conditions diamond workers in Zimbabwe are enduring?
- 7) What do you think of the human rights activist Farai Maguwu?
- 8) Why is Zimbabwe being allowed to get away with selling **blood diamonds**?
- 9) Isn't 'the Kimberley Process' just a farce?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## SPEAKING

Let's debate! Blood diamonds

*Allow 10-20 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

Debate the following:-

**Blood diamonds – 'The Kimberley Process'**

The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Should Zimbabwe be allowed to resume diamond sales? That's the question delegates from 70 countries at talks in Israel recently had to decide. The organisation that controls the international (1)\_\_\_\_\_ trade failed to find an answer after allegations of human rights abuses in Zimbabwe's mines. Members of the watchdog, known as 'the Kimberley Process', said discussions had been 'clouded' by the arrest and imprisonment of a human rights (2)\_\_\_\_\_. Farai Maguwu had alleged that forced labour, (3)\_\_\_\_\_, torture and harassment were being used to develop Zimbabwe's new lucrative Marange diamond (4)\_\_\_\_\_. Zimbabwe's ability to export Kimberley certified diamonds - 'the Kimberley Process' - was (5)\_\_\_\_\_ after the army seized control of Marange, allegedly massacring up to 200 miners two years ago. The country has accused the west of trying to hold back its economic development. The diamonds from the Marange field could see the country become one of the world's top six (6)\_\_\_\_\_ of diamonds and generate US\$1.7bn a year. But human rights groups want Zimbabwe to remain banned from selling "(7)\_\_\_\_\_ diamonds" - those which are used to fuel a (8)\_\_\_\_\_.

*mines*

*activist*

*blood*

*conflict*

*suspended*

*exporters*

*rape*

*diamond*

At its annual meeting in Tel Aviv 'the Kimberley Process' chairman Boaz Hirsch announced: "We could not reach (1)\_\_\_\_\_ regarding the work at Marange." A (2)\_\_\_\_\_ said: "As such, the meeting ended at an impasse." Mr Hirsch: "Further talks on whether to lift the worldwide ban on Zimbabwe diamonds will take place next month in the Russian city of St Petersburg." The organisation angered human rights groups in June when a (3)\_\_\_\_\_ it appointed to (4)\_\_\_\_\_ the mining operations at Marange said Zimbabwe had met the minimum conditions to resume exports. At the end of June a Zimbabwean judge denied bail to Mr Maguwu after he was arrested for "peddling (5)\_\_\_\_\_" about the diamond trade. Non-governmental organisations such as *Human Rights Watch* and *Global Witness* said the Zimbabwean (6)\_\_\_\_\_ continues to carry out widespread (7)\_\_\_\_\_ in the area and is (8)\_\_\_\_\_ diamonds onto the open market. The Zimbabwean government plans to sell diamond stockpiles from Marange regardless of the Kimberley Process decision. The organisation was set up in 2002 after the diamond trade was accused of fuelling conflicts in Africa.

*falsehoods*

*assess*

*monitor*

*abuses*

*smuggling*

*army*

*statement*

*consensus*

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

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## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

(1)\_\_\_ Zimbabwe be allowed to resume diamond sales? That's the question delegates (2)\_\_\_ 70 countries at talks in Israel recently had to decide. The organisation (3)\_\_\_ controls the international diamond trade failed to find an answer (4)\_\_\_ allegations of human rights abuses in Zimbabwe's mines. Members of the watchdog, known as 'the Kimberley Process', said discussions had been 'clouded' by the arrest and imprisonment of a human rights activist. Farai Maguwu had alleged that forced labour, rape, torture and harassment were being used to develop Zimbabwe's new lucrative Marange diamond mines. Zimbabwe's ability to export Kimberley certified diamonds – 'the Kimberley Process' – was suspended after the army seized control of Marange, allegedly massacring up to 200 miners two years ago. The country has accused the west of trying to hold back its economic development. The diamonds from the Marange field (5)\_\_\_ see the country become one of the world's top six exporters of diamonds and generate US\$1.7bn a year. (6)\_\_\_ human rights groups want Zimbabwe to remain banned from selling "blood diamonds" – (7)\_\_\_ (8)\_\_\_ are used to fuel a conflict.

**which**  
**those**  
**should**  
**from**  
**could**  
**after**  
**that**  
**but**

At (1)\_\_\_ annual meeting in Tel Aviv 'the Kimberley Process' chairman Boaz Hirsch announced: "(2)\_\_\_ could not reach consensus regarding the work at Marange." A statement said: "(3)\_\_\_ such, the meeting ended at an impasse." Mr Hirsch: "Further talks on whether to lift (4)\_\_\_ worldwide ban on Zimbabwe diamonds will take place next month in the Russian city of St Petersburg." The organisation angered human rights groups in June when (5)\_\_\_ monitor it appointed to assess the mining operations at Marange said Zimbabwe had met the minimum conditions to resume exports. (6)\_\_\_ the end of June a Zimbabwean judge denied bail to Mr Maguwu after he was arrested for "peddling falsehoods" about the diamond trade. Non-governmental organisations such as *Human Rights Watch* and *Global Witness* said the Zimbabwean army continues to carry out widespread abuses in the area (7)\_\_\_ is smuggling diamonds onto the open market. The Zimbabwean government plans to sell diamond stockpiles from Marange regardless (8)\_\_\_ the Kimberley Process decision. The organisation was set up in 2002 after the diamond trade was accused of fuelling conflicts in Africa.

**of**  
**a**  
**we**  
**as**  
**at**  
**and**  
**the**  
**its**

## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	certified	11	countries
2	torture	12	international
3	activist	13	widespread
4	delegates	14	lucrative
5	imprisonment	15	conflict
6	monitor	16	impasse
7	organisations	17	regardless
8	development	18	consensus
9	Zimbabwe	19	fuelling
10	generate	20	assess

### LINKS

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/africa/10411137.stm>

[http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/World-News/Talks-Over-Zimbabwes-Diamond-Mining-Industry-Deadlock-Fail-After-Human-Rights-Abuse-Allegations/Article/201006415654310?lpos=World News Third World News Article Teaser Region 7&lid=ARTICLE\\_15654310 Talks Over Zimbabwes Diamond Mining Industry Deadlock Fail After Human Rights Abuse Allegations](http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/World-News/Talks-Over-Zimbabwes-Diamond-Mining-Industry-Deadlock-Fail-After-Human-Rights-Abuse-Allegations/Article/201006415654310?lpos=World%20News%20Third%20World%20News%20Article%20Teaser%20Region%207&lid=ARTICLE_15654310)

### ANSWERS

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