



FATAL TRANSACTIONS NEWSLETTER

April 2007

A quarterly newsletter published by Fatal Transactions- a project funded by the European Union's programme: "Co-financing with European Development NGO's - operations to raise public awareness of development issues"

PARTNER ACTIVITIES

[BICC secondment to the European Commission](#)

The Bonn International Center for Conversion has seconded Willem Jaspers to the European Commission for the duration of the EU Chairmanship of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). Willem has started this new position in April and is now based in Brussels.

[Diamond Day in Kinshasa April 24-25](#)

The Congolese organisation CENADEP, member of Fatal transactions, organizes, jointly with the Congolese Ministry of mines, the second 'Diamond day' in Kinshasa on April 24-25. During these days, participants from government, civil society and the diamond industry will reflect on the role diamond can play in the development and reconstruction of war-ravaged country. They will discuss the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process, and come up with ideas for sustainable diamond mining.

[Buyers guide for 'clean diamonds'.](#)

The buyers guide informs you how you can make sure that your diamond ring did not contribute to wars in Africa. (In Dutch)

[International appeal: a fair share for Congo](#)

Mining contracts are vital to the development of the DRC

After thirty years of dictatorship and over fifteen years of war and transition, the Congolese people have immense needs. The DRC has abundant mining resources. A fair exploitation of those resources should allow for the reconstruction and the development of the country.

Member of the European parliament Max van den Berg asked the European Commission, being the largest donor of the DRC, to press for revision of the DRC's mining contracts.



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The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission

[New GroundWork newsletter](#)

New Fatal Transactions member GroundWork from South Africa publishes its March newsletter. GroundWork is a non-profit environmental justice service and developmental organisation working primarily in South Africa, but increasingly in Southern Africa.

[Blood Diamond](#)

On the 25th of January, the movie 'Blood Diamond' opened in the Netherlands. Although the movie is about Serra Leone, where the diamond-fuelled civil war has ended a few years ago, the misery shown in the movie is still real in many diamond mining areas in Africa. To raise awareness about the dark side of diamonds, Amnesty International and NiZA organized for the short movie 'Diamond Matters' to be shown on a 114 M2 screen at the Rembrand Plein in Amsterdam

[New Fatal Transactions coalition](#)

The European Union rewarded Fatal Transactions with a new three-year grant to continue the campaign on conflict-related exploitation of natural resources in Africa. From January 1st 2007 Fatal Transactions will have a new coalition, with members from Europe and Africa.

NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

[Die Rolle externer wirtschaftlicher Akteure in Bürgerkriegsökonimien und ihre Bedeutung für Kriegsbeendigungsstrategien in Afrika südlich der Sahara](#)

Michael Brzoska / Wolf-Christian Paes 2007-04

What role do external economic actors play for the outbreak, the continuation, and the resolution of violent conflicts in war economies in Sub-Saharan Africa?
(In German with English summary)

[The legal aspects of the Kimberley Process](#)

Frans Schram | 2007-01

A report concerning the legal aspects of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). The juridical meanders that led up to the KPCS, might prove to constitute an instructive precedent.

[The Groundwork report 2006 : poisoned spaces: manufacturing wealth, reproducing poverty](#)

This groundWork Report centers on the making of environmental injustice in the Vaal Triangle in South Africa , where the population is highly affected by pollution and environmental degradation in one of the most polluted places on earth.

[The EU Chair of the Kimberley Process](#)

The European Commission has taken over the Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2007, succeeding South Africa, Canada, Russian Federation and Botswana. The EC views and plans for the Kimberley Process in 2007 are laid out in the Action Programme and build on the conclusions from the Plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process in November 2006.

The European Commission has taken as its motto for its presidency 'From conflict Diamonds to prosperity Diamonds'. Fatal Transactions calls upon the Commission to work together to ensure that diamonds contribute to the development of African countries.

Corporate Social responsibility (CSR): Adoption of the resolution on CSR drafted by Richard Howitt

The resolution urges the EU to adopt a European standard for product labelling where observance of human rights and fundamental workers' rights are part of the labelling scheme. Besides, the report adopted on 9 March 2007, is critical of the Commission's approach of letting companies decide how to incorporate social and environmental concerns into business practices.

Groundbreaking Report on Mining, Oil and Gas Companies Released: Civil Society and Industry Representatives Agree on Good Overseas Practices

Ottawa, March 29, 2007. Canada could become a world leader on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) if the federal government and other stakeholders accept and act on the recommendations of a groundbreaking report.

Angola: Anti-corruption campaigner still under investigation. (March 21st, 2007)

Dr Sarah Wykes, a British national and senior campaigner at Global Witness, was arrested in Angola on 18th February 2007 while visiting the country to assess the transparency of its oil sector. She is being investigated under an Angolan national security law.

Dr Wykes was allowed to leave Angola on bail and returned to the United Kingdom on 18th March. However, the case against her continues.

Minewatch zambia scrutinizes Zambia's mining contracts

The report *For Whom the Windfalls? Winners and Losers in the Privatisation of Zambia's Copper Mines*, by Alastair Fraser and John Lungu shows clearly how very little the Zambian population is profiting from its countries massive wealth of copper and Cobalt. The report was published by the Civil Society Trade Network of Zambia (CSNTZ), and the Catholic Commission for Justice, Development and Peace (CCJDP).

Opportunity for the new Congolese government to fundamentally reform the natural resource sector

In its new report, Global Witness urges President Joseph Kabila and the new Congolese government to seize the momentum of the post-election period to implement fundamental reforms in the mining and forest sectors.

In its Agenda for Reform in the Natural Resource Sector of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Global Witness recommends priority actions to the government of the DRC aimed at ending state looting and corruption, preventing natural resources from fuelling conflict and ensuring that natural resources contribute to development.

Fatal Transactions is an international campaign for awareness raising among consumers, opinion makers, politicians and industry on the crucial relation between trade in natural resources from African countries and continuation and escalation of armed conflicts and human rights violations. The overall objective is to end armed conflicts and human rights violations by drying up the financial resources and making sure that the revenues made out of the exploitation of natural resources are being used for the well-being of the population.

Fatal Transactions is carried out by 4 European NGOs; [Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa](#) (The Netherlands), [BICC](#) (Germany), [Pax Christi Netherlands](#) (The Netherlands), [IPIS](#) (Belgium). Associates are: [Medico International](#) (Germany), [OxfamNovib](#) (The Netherlands), [Broederlijk Delen](#) (Belgium) [CENADEP](#) (DR Congo), [Wroclaw](#) (Poland), [Groundwork](#) (South Africa), [JEA](#) (Angola)

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