

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 239

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the global diamond industry, as represented by the World Diamond Council, should provide transition development assistance to communities in Sierra Leone, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the illicit trade in conflict diamonds for arms fueled civil war, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2003

Ms. WATSON (for herself, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. PAYNE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the global diamond industry, as represented by the World Diamond Council, should provide transition development assistance to communities in Sierra Leone, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the illicit trade in conflict diamonds for arms fueled civil war, and for other purposes.

Whereas during the past decade, civil wars in Sierra Leone, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, fueled by the trade in “conflict diamonds” for arms and waged in large part for control of diamond mining areas, have killed approximately 3,700,000 people and driven more

than 6,500,000 people from their homes, communities, workplaces, and schools;

Whereas the practice of maiming and mutilating civilians, including children, inflicted permanent injury, leaving them permanently disabled and less able to maintain a livelihood for themselves and their families;

Whereas an estimated 27,000 young boys were conscripted as child soldiers to serve in combat and combat-support roles in those civil wars, and unknown numbers of girls were forced into combat-related sex slavery and domestic labor in those wars;

Whereas rape was used as a weapon of war, a tactic of terror, and an act of revenge against scores of women and girls who continue to suffer physically, socially, and psychologically, and recovery from these traumas is a matter of importance on individual, familial, and community levels;

Whereas the rise of HIV prevalence in Sierra Leone, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo can be attributed in large part to the wars that caused the massive displacement of people and the disruption of social, economic, and governance systems and the increased vulnerability among people, particularly women and girls;

Whereas according to the United Nations, “conflict diamonds” are 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;

Whereas humanitarian and human rights groups and other nongovernmental organizations have documented that conflict diamonds have been used by armed groups and

terrorist organizations to purchase weapons to sustain campaigns of human rights abuses against civilians;

Whereas over the past decade, United Nations peacekeeping efforts in Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo have cost the international community an estimated \$675,000,000;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council, in Security Council Resolutions 1173 of June 12, 1998, and 1176 of June 24, 1998, passed measures imposing sanctions against UNITA in Angola and the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone that target the specific link between the trade in conflict diamonds and the supply to rebel movements of weapons, fuel, and other prohibited materiel;

Whereas in the year 2000, the estimated value of rough diamonds exported from Africa was \$7,000,000,000, and the estimated value of polished diamonds and diamond jewelry exported from countries that imported the rough diamonds from Africa was close to \$50,000,000,000;

Whereas it is estimated that, in the year 2000, between 4 percent and 15 percent of rough diamonds exported from Africa were conflict diamonds with an estimated value of \$280,000,000 to \$1,050,000,000, and the estimated value of polished diamonds and diamond jewelry derived from conflict diamonds was \$2,000,000,000 to \$7,500,000,000;

Whereas the global diamond industry profited substantially from the trade in illicit conflict diamonds;

Whereas the global diamond industry as represented by the World Diamond Council has worked with the United Nations, governments, and nongovernmental organizations

in the design of the Kimberley Process to develop a diamond certification system to distinguish between legitimate and conflict diamonds and thereby stem the trade in conflict diamonds;

Whereas the success of the Kimberley Process is dependent upon the development and implementation of a transparent and auditable chain of warranty system for the industry and the use of highly skilled and knowledgeable experts to monitor routinely all participants in the Kimberley Process in accordance with uniformly established procedures; and

Whereas the United States Congress supports the efforts and activities of the War Affected Amputee Association (WAAA) of Sierra Leone and individuals, organizations, and other entities seeking compensation for victims of atrocities in civil wars fought in Sierra Leone, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
 2 *concurring),* That this concurrent resolution may be cited  
 3 as the “Conflict Diamonds Resolution”.

4        SEC. 2. It is the sense of the Congress that—

5            (1) the global diamond industry, as represented  
 6        by the World Diamond Council—

7            (A) should establish a fund—

8            (i) to support demobilization centers  
 9            and rehabilitation training programs, in-  
 10          cluding trauma counseling, for  
 11          excombatants in the civil wars in Sierra

1 Leone, Angola, and the Democratic Repub-  
2 lic of Congo, particularly child soldiers;

3 (ii) to support programs to provide  
4 psychological counseling, health care treat-  
5 ment, education, training, and other needs  
6 of women and girls victimized in those civil  
7 wars by rape, forced domestic servitude,  
8 and other gender-related abuses;

9 (iii) to help strengthen governmental  
10 and nongovernmental health care infra-  
11 structure to support HIV/AIDS programs  
12 that provide voluntary testing and coun-  
13 seling, education, prevention, treatment,  
14 and hospice care in Sierra Leone, Angola,  
15 and the Democratic Republic of Congo;

16 (iv) to support economic development  
17 and civil society-building programs in those  
18 countries, particularly the promotion of en-  
19 trepreneurship, including access to micro-  
20 finance to establish rural and urban micro-  
21 enterprise activities;

22 (v) to support efforts to rebuild  
23 schools, health clinics, training centers,  
24 and other efforts to reconstruct the local  
25 economies of those countries, including ag-

1 riculture, and to support water and sanita-  
2 tion reconstruction programs and infra-  
3 structure rehabilitation and development in  
4 those countries; and

5 (vi) to support diamond training insti-  
6 tutes covering all aspects of the diamond  
7 industry in order to develop a new genera-  
8 tion of African workers trained in the lat-  
9 est technologies, business management,  
10 sales, sorting, polishing, setting, and valu-  
11 ation, and all other professional and voca-  
12 tional aspects of the diamond industry;

13 (B) should establish a program through  
14 which humanitarian assistance from the dia-  
15 mond industry can be made available to the am-  
16 putees of, and others permanently disabled by,  
17 the civil wars in Sierra Leone, Angola, and the  
18 Democratic Republic of Congo;

19 (C) should continue the cooperative delib-  
20 erations with the United Nations, governments,  
21 charitable organizations, and nongovernmental  
22 organizations in the Kimberley Process to de-  
23 velop a diamond certification system for rough  
24 diamonds in order to stem the trade in conflict

1 diamonds, and to operate in a more transparent  
2 manner in true partnership with host countries;

3 (D) should support the activities of all rec-  
4 onciliation processes, including the Truth and  
5 Reconciliation Commission of Sierra Leone,  
6 that will play a critical role in healing the  
7 wounds of war in Sierra Leone, Angola, and the  
8 Democratic Republic of Congo, and to reinforce  
9 a just and lasting peace in those countries by  
10 promoting respect for the dignity and human  
11 rights of all citizens; and

12 (E) should encourage the World Diamond  
13 Council to develop and implement a comprehen-  
14 sive, reliable, standardized, and auditable chain  
15 of warranty system to support the Kimberley  
16 Process;

17 (2) the Secretary of State should make every  
18 effort to assist the World Diamond Council in estab-  
19 lishing and administering the fund described in  
20 paragraph (1)(A); and

21 (3) not later than 6 months after the adoption  
22 of this resolution, the Secretary of State should re-  
23 port to the appropriate congressional committees  
24 on—

1           (A) the actions of the World Diamond  
2           Council in developing and implementing the  
3           Kimberley Process;

4           (B) the progress made by the World Dia-  
5           mond Council toward addressing the goals and  
6           objectives set forth in this resolution; and

7           (C) the efforts of the Secretary of State to  
8           assist the World Diamond Council in estab-  
9           lishing the fund described in paragraph (1)(A)  
10          and implementing the Kimberley Process.

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