

# DE BEERS DIAMONDS BUILT ON THE BLOOD OF BLACK AFRICAN SLAVE LABOUR

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De Beers Blood Diamonds  
Bankrolled Apartheid In  
**SOUTH AFRICA**

Today Bankrolls Apartheid In  
**PALESTINE**

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De Beers diamond empire was founded by a genocidal white supremacist called Cecil Rhodes, and was built on the blood of black African indentured slave labour. De Beers blood diamonds bankrolled apartheid in South Africa and today bankrolls apartheid in Palestine.

## **De Beers Laid The Foundations Of Apartheid**

Black Africans, traditionally farmers, didn't want to work in De Beers diamond mines. The mines were death traps with no regards to safety - 5,000 Africans were killed very year in the mines. So De Beers boss, Cecil Rhodes, also Prime Minister of the Cape Colony passed racist segregation laws to force black Africans into indentured slavery in his diamond mines. These laws later formed the basis of apartheid in South Africa.

## **De Beers Slave Camps**

De Beers created 'Closed Labour Compounds' which were in effect concentration camps for forced black slave labour to work in the diamond mines. Africans were imprisoned behind high walls with barbed wire, forced to work a gruelling 14 hours a day until their contract ended. Rhodes had legalised torture of blacks, and made it illegal for them to leave their jobs. Tens of thousands of Africans died in these camps, as a direct result of forced labour, inadequate shelter, negligible food supply and non-existent medical attention. With so many dying, De Beers sought the help of a Portuguese slave trader to supply Africans from as far away as the Mozambican coast.



## De Beers Expanding Apartheid Across Africa

Rhodes believed it was his "duty to take" Africa for the white "Anglo-Saxon" master race. He proudly proclaimed his forced segregation laws, which restricted the 70% indigenous black African population into just 7.3% of their land, as "a Bill for Africa" - a blueprint to implement right across Africa from the South African Cape to Cairo in Egypt. To kick-start his plan De Beers financed a private mercenary army to invade and occupy what is today Zimbabwe and Zambia, resulting in the slaughter of 60,000 Africans. Rhodes named this stolen land after himself - Rhodesia.



## De Beers - A Pillar Of Apartheid

De Beers (now part of Anglo-American), as South Africa's largest, most powerful company, was a central pillar of apartheid. Apartheid prime minister John Vorster, described De Beers as "bricks in the walls of the regime's continued existence." At a time when other multinationals were divesting from South Africa, Anglo American's chairman, Gavin W. H. Rely, boasted that the company played a "stabilizing" role by investing in apartheid and bailing out the regime.

## De Beers Exploitation Of Africans Continues After Apartheid

When apartheid ended in 1994 it was expected that De Beers would be called to account for its crimes. The ANC charter promised nationalisation of the country's resources, including diamonds, for the benefit of its people. But this didn't happen and De Beers survived untouched because of its stranglehold on the economy - it controlled 85% of the companies on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. The newly elected ANC govern-

ment could not risk economic collapse by upsetting De Beers. De Beers paid no export taxes on diamonds for the next 13 years, and no royalties on mining diamonds until 2010, after which it pressured the government to reduce the royalties from 10% down to 1.1% - the lowest in Africa.

## **Blood Diamonds**

Blood diamonds are diamonds that fund human rights violations. De Beers empire was clearly founded on, and run on, blood diamonds. The human rights violations their blood diamonds are bankrolling is not limited to Africa, today De Beers is bankrolling apartheid in Palestine.

## **De Beers Bankrolls Apartheid In Palestine**

Following Rhodes blueprint, Zionist colonists consolidated their occupation of Palestine by turning it into a Zionist supremacist apartheid state, by forcing the surviving indigenous Palestinians into what is today less than 9% of their land. De Beers, with a 90% monopoly on global diamond production, helped kickstart apartheid Israel's diamond industry by supplying \$100 million worth of rough diamonds to the fledgling apartheid settler colony, for cutting and polishing. In the early years, Israel, with no foreign currency reserves, was nearly bankrupt. Its two exports were (with De Beers help) cut diamonds and stolen Palestinian Jaffa oranges. De Beers blood diamonds helped sustain Israel's apartheid regime from its inception till today, funding its war crimes against the indigenous Palestinians. Today diamonds are Israel's #1 industry by far - in 2018 it's net export of diamonds was worth \$7.8 bn. Diamonds account for nearly a quarter of Israel's total manufacturing export.

*South Africa's first apartheid Prime Minister Daniel F Malan enjoying a cup of tea with apartheid Israel's first Prime Minister Ben Gurion. De Beers helped prop up both apartheid regimes.*



*“Overall the Israeli diamond industry contributes about \$1 billion annually to the Israeli military and security industries ..every time somebody buys a diamond that was exported from Israel some of that money ends up in the Israeli military”*

~ Israeli economist Shir Hever,  
testimony at Russell Tribunal Nov 2010



## **Israeli Diamond Bourse Complicit In Slaughter Of Children**

In Israel's July 2014 attack on Gaza, 258 schools & kindergardens were targeted, 521 children were slaughtered whilst they took shelter in UN schools. UNICEF reported that another 3,374 were injured - nearly a third of whom suffer permanent disability - and over 1,500 children were left orphaned. At the time the Israeli Diamond Bourse boasted of sending truck loads of military equipment to help this slaughter of children.



De Beers sells around 90% of its rough diamonds to a few select partners known as Sightholders.

Nearly 20% of those Sightholders are part of the Israeli Diamond Bourse. This figure does not include Israeli diamond companies outside Israel like Diacore (formally called Steinmetz Diamond Group), a close De Beers partner, who had 'adopted' Israel's notorious Givati Brigade of the Israeli army during Operation Cast Lead in 2009. The Givati Brigade stands accused of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

## **Kimberley Process**

The Kimberley Process was supposed to prevent the trade in diamonds that fund human rights violations. But the Kimberley Process's narrow definition of a "conflict diamond" as "rough diamonds used by rebel movements to finance wars against legitimate governments" excludes most blood diamonds, including Israel's cut and polished diamond industry that is seeped in Palestinian blood. Under the Kimberley Process's narrow definition of "conflict diamond" even diamonds produced out of Cecil Rhodes black African slave camps would be regarded as conflict-free!

Jewellers exploit this anomaly, and deceitfully claim diamonds crafted in Israel are conflict free despite the UN Human Rights Council having found Israel guilty of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity. The Kimberley Process needs urgent revision as at the moment it's simply used to white wash Israeli blood diamonds and present them falsely as "conflict-free" and "ethical".

## **Israel Sabotaged The Kimberley Process**

In October 2015 at the AGM of the World Diamond Council in Moscow, there was a draft proposal to empower the Kimberley Process by widening the definition of conflict diamonds "to include countries who flout human rights laws not just in mining areas but also in diamond trading centers". The institutes of the World Diamond Council had already confirmed the change in definition, before the President of the Israel Diamond Exchange, Shmuel Schnitzer, personally intervened to put a stop to it saying "it could be disastrous for Israel". The already agreed change in the definition of a conflict diamond was binned to shield Israel's blood diamond trade.

Diamonds that fund war crimes are not conflict-free and are not ethical. De Beers, architects of apartheid in south Africa, is today underpinning apartheid in Palestine through its blood diamonds.

## Palestinians Call For A Boycott

In the run up to Valentine's Day in 2013, over 50 Palestinian civil society organisations, including women's groups and trade unions, called for a boycott of diamonds processed in apartheid Israel: "[We] call upon women and men of conscience the world over to reject diamonds from Israel which fund a military regime that murders, maims and terrorises innocent men, women and children with impunity."

A boycott of South African goods during the apartheid era helped end apartheid in South Africa, today the Palestinians are calling for a boycott of Israeli goods, starting with diamonds. Help end apartheid in Palestine by boycotting diamonds processed in Israel today! Most Jewellers sell diamonds processed in Israel, including **De Beers, Cartier, Leviev, Tiffany, Graff, Sotheby's Diamonds, Beaverbrooks, Signet, H.Samuel and Ernest Jones**. Don't buy a diamond unless you know where it was cut & polished.

"In South Africa, we could not have achieved our democracy without the help of people around the world, who through the use of non-violent means, such as boycotts and divestment, encouraged their governments and other corporate actors to reverse decades-long support for the apartheid regime. The same issues of inequality and injustice today motivate the divestment movement trying to end Israel's decades-long occupation of Palestinian territory and the unfair and prejudicial treatment of the Palestinian people by the Israeli government ruling over them. Those who turn a blind eye to injustice actually perpetuate injustice. If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

"We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians."

**Nelson Mandela**



# BOYCOTT ISRAELI DIAMONDS

*Forever on your Conscience..*

*An engagement ring  
is meant to signify love,  
not death and slaughter.*

*Don't wear a trophy  
of Israeli butchery  
on your finger..*



Photo shows the hand of a girl from the Samouni family buried under the rubble of her home in Gaza (18 Jan 2009) following the massacre of 29 members of her family by the Givati Brigade of the Israeli army which stands accused of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity by the UN Human Rights Council. Israel's Steinmetz Diamond Co.(now Diacore), partner of De Beers and Tiffany's, through its foundation, adopted the Brigade, funding it and supporting it during the slaughter of the Samouni family.



For more info see [www.inminds.com/bloodd](http://www.inminds.com/bloodd)

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