



*Raising the Community Voice in the Extractive Sector*

### **Press Statement by the CRD**

#### **Human rights violations upsurge in Marange amid reports of diamond leakages.**

The CRD raises concern over the increase in incidences of human rights abuses taking place in the diamond fields of Marange. Information coming from Marange indicate that the tussle over control of business between mining companies and government has deeply impacted on the lives of workers and the mining community. Mining companies have arbitrarily slashed workers' salaries and in some instances workers have gone for months without receiving their monthly income. Other companies like Anjin have cited viability challenges as reason for downsizing in the process terminating contracts for hundreds of semi skilled workers who were recruited mostly from the surrounding community. The above actions by mining companies have contributed to security laxity in the entire operational structures of the mines leading to diamond leakages. Diamond buyers milling around areas near Marange such as Nyanyadzi and Hot Springs told CRD that they were also buying gems from diamond sorters working in the plants.

Taking advantage of the porous security situation hundreds of artisanal panners are accessing the diamond fields every night to pan for diamonds. Overwhelmed by these numbers, security guards manning the diamond fields have become heavy handed in their efforts to dispel illegal panners leading to loss of life. On 28 August 2014 Marange Resources guards opened fire to a group of fleeing panners killing Elijah Manono instantly according to an eye witness account. One Cleopas Mubuwa also shot in the head is fighting for his life at Mutambara Hospital. Farai Madenga was also shot twice in the head last month at Marange Resources when he was found panning in their tailings. He also died from his injuries. Yesterday CRD interviewed Shingirai Mujaji aged 28, Tryson Zvenyika aged 25 and Luckson Zvenyika aged 28 years over their activities in the diamond fields. They all mentioned unemployment as the reason why they were risking their lives to pan for diamonds in Marange. The trio, who all come from Chiadzwa were also shot in the diamond fields on 27 August and had Mossberg bullets embedded in various parts of their bodies and needed medical attention.

The pervasive lack of transparency and accountability in the management of Marange diamonds explain ongoing human rights abuses and diamond leakages. Promises made by Minister Chidhakwa to overhaul operations in Marange in order to promote sustainable mining of these diamonds has come to naught as communities continue to wallow in abject poverty. The CRD reminds government of the need to expeditiously review mining contracts in Marange and bring on board potential investors with the capacity to initiate change needed for mining investments in Marange to meet human rights standards.