



For Immediate Release

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WDC President lauds release of Zimbabwe human rights activist

Press Release

Moscow, Russia - JULY 13, 2010: Eli Izhakoff, President of the World Diamond Council, has welcomed the release from a Zimbabwe prison of Farai Maguwu, the human rights activist who was arrested by the authorities in early June following a meeting he held with the Kimberley Process Monitor for Zimbabwe.

"We are relieved that Mr. Maguwu has been released from detention and is able to rejoin his family," the WDC President said. "This is a positive development, but only a first step. We sincerely hope that the charges that had been leveled against Mr. Magawu will be dropped as well."

"Mr Magawu's ongoing detention clearly has clouded the discussions regarding the resumption of rough diamond exports from the Marange region. I hope that this latest development will help set the stage for the discussion that we will have at the Kimberley Process Mini-Summit in St. Petersburg tomorrow, and that we then will be able to move forward toward the resolution of the current impasse.."

The special Kimberley Process Mini-Summit is being held in conjunction with the 7th Annual Meeting of the World Diamond Council, which is being held in St. Petersburg on July 14 and 15.

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