



Diamonds From Sierra Leone

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Quel prix pour ces diamants ?

Non au commerce des armes et des diamants de sang. Les pays qui violent les droits humains. Amnesty International

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Goal

- Did Sierra Leone ever recover from colonialism?
Was it ever stable?

Sierra Leone.

As a nation, Sierra Leone is strongly aware of colonization and its effects as the country was once colonized itself. Sierra Leone was colonized by the British in the 18th century. The British began in Freetown in 1792. Although some resisted the British influence, many saw this colonization as an opportunity for a better life and others hated what was going on. Soon, Freetown became the capital of Sierra Leone. After Sierra Leone was colonized it had a big effect on the nation not only as a whole but individually as well. They started to turn against each other and groups started to form and the pain and suffering was back.



Diamonds



Many of the diamonds that your mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, cousin and even yourself come from Sierra Leone and other parts of Africa. They call them “Blood Diamonds” In sierra leone. Why? Because thats what they are before they clean them and wax them here in the United Sates. People’s blood,sweat and tears go into mining the diamonds.

Men,women and children get killed everyday for us to have the diamonds we have. After Sierra leone was colonized by Britain They haven't been the same since. Everything Changed.



Diamond Sifter

A Diamond Sifter is a tool used for collecting diamonds. The tool is given to men who are working for the RUF. They are in a stream of water and they had to put the sifter under the water and bring it back up and shake it. All the pebbles and other things that are not diamonds float right back into the stream. When somebody finds a diamond they have to go to the leader in charge and give it to them. If they don't they get killed. Many try to sneak diamonds by putting it in their mouth or other parts of their body ... not a lot succeed.



Guns

After being Colonized Sierra Leone went way downhill. They started to turn against each other and thats when the notorious group called the RUF formed. They started coming to villages and killing everybody. Babies,women and sometimes men. They only killed weak men because they would be no use to them. They gather all the men and young boys and put them onto a truck and took them away. The young boys received guns and practiced shooting guns on test dummies. The RUF had lots of money and got any guns they wanted.



Kid Soldiers

In Sierra Leone there is a lot of violence and crime. Children young as 10 years old have guns and do drugs. They are in the vicious gang most known in Sierra Leone called the RUF. They kidnap kids from villages and force them to become soldiers. If they deny they get killed. The RUF took over the diamond mines. With the profits from the sale of diamonds, the RUF were able to purchase the guns and ammunition they needed to keep up their reign of terror on the people of Sierra Leone.



Video



Camo Pants

The RUF always wore camo pants and they make the kid shoulders were them.



Blind fold

When the RUF kidnap the kids from the villages they take them to where all the other children soldiers are and they blind fold them. They blind fold them so they won't see anything and so they can learn how to do various tasks without being scared. For example the RUF blind fold you and they hand you a gun and force you to shoot to get your abilities and strengths up.



Drugs

The RUF made sure that they drug the kids. They introduced the kids to heroin and weed. When they drug them, they began to manipulate them and tell them how there parents aren't anything and how everybody is against them. The boys believe everything that they are saying and soon gets addicted to the drugs as well as the power they have against the people in Sierra Leone.



Sierra Leone.

In conclusion Sierra Leone as been through a lot and things are getting worst. Had not the British colonize them would they had done all this? Would there be peace?

Final thoughts/ Questions

- Do you think Sierra Leone would have been different if colonialism wouldn't have happened?
- Do you think colonialism drove the people to turn on each other?
- Was Sierra Leone ever stable?

Thank You