



**global witness**

### **UN/SRSG & Global Witness Team Up**

The United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Business and Human Rights, Professor John Ruggie, and Global Witness, the international London-based NGO, are pleased to announce the secondment of Ms. Seema Joshi, to work with the SRSG on a joint project addressing corporate related human rights abuses in conflict zones.

The aim of the project is to gain a better understanding of the responsibilities of home country governments (i.e. the state in which a company is domiciled). The project seeks to identify advisory, facilitative and regulatory means home states have or could develop to prevent and deter abuses in the first place, and to punish wrongdoing by companies where it does occur.

Professor Ruggie said, "I am very excited to be working with Global Witness. They are known for conducting innovative research and finding creative solutions to difficult problems. Their work on conflict zones and conflict resources, in particular, has been path breaking. This project will be an excellent complement to the important report on weak governance zones jointly submitted to the mandate by the International Organization of Employers, International Chamber of Commerce, and the OECD's Business Advisory Committee."

Speaking for Global Witness, Campaigns Director Gavin Hayman said, "Global Witness is committed to finding solutions that break the links between business and human right abuses and has played a major role in ground-breaking initiatives like the Kimberley Process and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. To be able to second a senior member of our staff to Professor Ruggie's team is a very exciting and important step in advancing the debate on the role of the home state in regulating transnational corporations and other business enterprises."

A lawyer by training, Seema Joshi is the legal advisor to the Ending Impunity campaign at Global Witness, where she has been working towards ending the belief and reality that any business or individual is above the law.

The time frame for this project is September 17 to December 17, 2007. It is expected to include an expert consultation including in-country perspectives from conflict areas, which will take place before the end of the year.

#### Notes to editors:

- Global Witness is a London-based international non-governmental organisation that investigates the role of natural resources in funding conflict, corruption and human rights abuses (see: [www.globalwitness.org](http://www.globalwitness.org)). Global Witness was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for its work on conflict diamonds.
- In July 2005, Kofi Annan appointed Professor John G. Ruggie to act as the SRSG for Business and Human Rights pursuant to Human Rights Resolution 2005/69.

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