

PRESS PACKET: INTERNATIONAL MOBILISATIONS BY PEASANTS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF THE SOCFIN-BOLLORÉ PLANTATIONS

LATEST NEWS

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1. BACKGROUND

Socfin is a Luxembourg-based holding company whose main shareholder is the Bolloré Group with a 39% stake (see document 7: organisational chart). The company owns industrial oil palm and rubber plantations in a number of countries in Africa and Asia. Since 2008, these plantations have continuously expanded. The area of Socfin's plantations in Africa increased from 129,658 in 2009 to 185,324 in 2015—an increase of over 40%. These expansions have caused serious conflicts with local people who are displaced from their lands and see their living conditions deteriorating. In many countries, peasant farmers who reside on the lands in question are mobilising to protest the imposition of these plantations.

There are now a number of organisations defending the rights of communities living on or near Socfin's plantations in Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Cambodia. They have come together to form an international alliance to exchange information, share experiences and join forces to combat this multinational company. Negotiations with local managers, conducted since 2008, have led to an impasse. As a result, the organisations now aim to negotiate directly with company leaders in order to find a lasting solution to this conflict.

The International Alliance of Local Communities of Socfin-Bolloré Plantations was founded 5 June 2013, on the day of the Bolloré Group's shareholder meeting. On this day, collective actions were carried out simultaneously in multiple countries. Since that time, local communities have been persistent in their request to meet with company representatives in control of the plantations in order to make their demands heard and resolve the conflict. The Bolloré Group took an important step when it agreed to international negotiations in Paris on 24 October 2014 with representatives of Alliance-member-organisations from five countries.

Unfortunately, several months following this meeting, Bolloré had yet to honour the commitments it made during the negotiations. Socfin now refuses to engage in any dialogue with organisations representing local communities. In view of this, the communities spearheaded one final attempt to engage with Socfin in 2015 and asked the Bolloré Group to show good will by facilitating a dialogue on 19 February 2016 (see document 3: Letter from local communities to Vincent Bolloré).

Today Socfin still refuses to recognize the Alliance of Local Communities as a legitimate actor, and refuses to engage in further dialogue to resolve conflicts on the ground. The Bolloré Group stands behind Socfin, which claims to be advancing solutions proposed by local (see document 4: response from Vincent Bolloré) even though it has failed to recognize the local organisations that are requesting dialogue. Consequently, peasants and local residents launched a series of coordinated collective actions in four African countries in order to bring to light the injustices they suffer and to pressure the company to come to the negotiating table.

2. LOCAL CONTEXT BY COUNTRY, MAY 2016

LIBERIA

On the LAC plantation, more than a year since the opening of negotiations with management, local communities were given lip service regarding compensation for destroyed crops that should have been paid on 30 June. It is unfortunate that it took more than a year of pressure and negotiations to achieve what could have been a mere formality—as compensation is mandatory and regulated by the government.

Many other contentious issues have yet to be addressed, and LAC managers are dragging their feet on the negotiations. For example, they cancelled a meeting originally scheduled for 18-25 March due to a holiday, but they have yet to reschedule it. Management also cancelled a meeting scheduled for 22 December 2015 with a local government representative, and it refuses to define a negotiation schedule with local communities.

Current demands:

- Payment of remaining compensation for occupied lands, which was outlined in an agreement signed by both management and communities in 2007;
- Rebuilding of houses that were destroyed during plantation expansion and providing, as promised in the 2007 agreement, four acres of land to each family;
- Providing employment to local people; over two phases, 750 people were to be employed by LAC; and

- Building a school and playground for local children.

On the SRC plantation, local communities have been intimidated by authorities, at the request of management. On Monday, 5 January 2015, six representatives of local communities who were trying to organise in affected villages were arrested. Following international pressure and media coverage, the detainees were released on bail, but they still face legal charges with little transparency regarding the process. One of the community representatives remains in hiding, under threat of being arrested again. These pressures have heavily undermined the Alliance of Local Communities.

CAMBODIA

Cambodia is the only country where an effective dialogue and regular meetings with communities and management are taking place, within the framework of a tripartite dialogue platform. However, over a year of dialogue has not led to any concrete results. The work of surveying land is still on-going. Furthermore, Socfin-KCD used a third party, GIZ, to intervene in the land dispute, which is not recognized as an independent expert by the communities. Management shows little willingness to make progress. For example, it agreed to compensate communities in the amount of \$40,000 for communal land and the destruction of sacred forest, which the community honoured in a traditional ceremony on 25 February 2016. (Several times in recent years, the communities have been forced to organize traditional ceremonies to appease the spirits following the destruction of sacred sites, often requiring the sacrifice of animals). This money, however, has not been paid on the grounds that communities must submit project proposals in order to receive funding. But it is for the communities to decide how to use their financial compensation, not the company.

CAMEROON

The local managers of Socapalm plantations refuse to respond to the communications of legally recognized organisations and refuse to engage in dialogue. This despite the many letters sent to the company and a request from local traditional leaders to be considered as the main negotiating partners on issues concerning local communities.

Socapalm management refuses to collaborate with the local chiefs and the organisation Synaparcam to discuss the conditions for communities' access to the company's health centres. While a face-to-face meeting would have undoubtedly resolved the issue, the company's written responses have been inadequate and incomplete. A protest was held in April and communities are still waiting for a response from the company to their most recent letter.

In a letter dated 25 April 2016, the Director of the Mbambou Plantation refused to meet with the legally recognized Synaparcam organisation, which has over 900 members; this indicates that they are more interested in meeting with individual village chiefs than with collective associations. The meeting involved merely a continuation of the dialogue begun under the tripartite platform in Dizangue on 20 January, as requested by the CEO and prefect.

Regarding the tripartite negotiating platforms promised to Synaparcam by the PCA and the Prefect of Sanaga Maritime on 28 April 2015: on the Dibombari plantation, management has refused to attend any meeting for months; in the district of Dizangue, only one meeting of the platform took place since January. The next meeting scheduled for 6 April was also postponed. And the most recent scheduled meeting on May 5 was cancelled without notice and has not yet been rescheduled. Clearly, the company does not take the negotiation platform seriously and holds little respect for the representatives of local communities.

The chairman of the board of Socapalm, who was designated as a key negotiator in conflict resolution, has still not met with the association of local people. There is only a semblance of dialogue in Cameroon, with very little progress to speak of since June 2015. And the dialogue platforms that were to be established on the remaining plantations are still non-existent.

Current demands:

In addition to the creation of a buffer zone around the villages and the transfer of land back to the communities—as outlined in the demands of Synaparcam—the communities are demanding the construction of infrastructure to make up for occupied lands and ensure that services are provided to the communities, such as:

- Access to potable water: drilling of wells and clean-up of rivers
- Education: building of schools
- Health: access to company health centres and building of health posts in remote areas
- Construction of decent housing for pygmy forest people
- Provision of employment to local youth
- Support for electrification in certain areas

CÔTE D’IVOIRE

The management of SOGB still refuses to engage in dialogue with UVD, a legally recognized association with 220 members. UVD is challenging the company’s exclusive dialogue with DSA, an association of influential people, with the support of management, that frequently defends narrow interests to the detriment of community wellbeing.

Current demands:

- Support for infrastructure including electrification, maintenance of paths, installation of water towers, rebuilding homes for displaced villagers and school construction;
- Returning vital spaces surrounding the villages; and
- Access to healthcare in the company’s health centre, access to employment and support for new farmers

SIERRA LEONE

Six representatives of MALOA, the association of local community members, were jailed in February 2016. They were subsequently released following international mobilization and media coverage, which helped raise the funds necessary to pay their fines. However, the repression has not stopped:

- Eleven people are still on trial for land conflicts and could be imprisoned any day now
- Seven local leaders were arrested and imprisoned on 7 September for having "written names on a list in the village without having informed the local chief." Their crime: seeking legal recognition for their association and attempting to collectively organise to defend their rights in the face of land grabbing by a multinational industrial oil palm company. They were later released and have not been persecuted since then. However, all community members are vulnerable to persecution and arbitrary imprisonment.
- A number of NGOs who were supposed to travel to the field in April to evaluate the situation were denied access to the region for "security reasons"

Today, the dialogue between local communities and management is completely closed.

3. LETTER FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO VINCENT BOLLORÉ, 19 FEBRUARY 2016

International Alliance of Local Communities of Socfin Plantations

Contact: Sare Tchrouin Ange

Communications liaison with Socfin and the Bolloré Group

President of the Union of the Villages of Déguerpis (Côte d'Ivoire)

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asso.uvd13v@gmail.com

19 February 2016

Mr Vincent Bolloré

President and CEO of the Bolloré Group

Dear Sir,

In your last letter dated 29 September 2015, you reiterated your promise to organise a dialogue aiming to resolve the conflicts between Socfin and the local communities neighbouring its plantations. You assured us that you were doing all that was in your power to bring the Socfin to the negotiation table.

Since the 5 February, six representatives from one of the organization, MALOA, a member of the Alliance, have been put in jail in Sierra Leone—due to their participation in the resolution of these conflicts. They were condemned to 5 – 6-month prison sentences for the destruction of 40 oil palms. Shiaka Sama, whom the Bolloré group invited and met with on 24 October 2014 in Paris, is one of them. Eleven other people are still indicted and on trial following a complaint from the Socfin Agricultural Company Sierra Leone Ltd.

We recognise that some progress has been achieved in terms of dialogue since our meeting in Paris: several meetings have taken place between ACCILE and the LAC management; the tripartite platform was made public on 22 December in Cambodia and the negotiation process is on-going; and on 20 January, a tripartite platform was organized for the region of Dizangue in Cameroon regarding the issues of the Mbongo and Mbambo plantations. However, the results of

these negotiations have not yet materialized; some negotiation platforms have not been organised in Cameroon as they were supposed to; and a solid tripartite process has yet to take place in Liberia.

While these developments represent significant progress, we are confident that it is possible to go further in the process we have initiated.

As we have argued several times, recognizing the existence of these conflicts and of legitimate representatives to negotiate with is the first step to solving the conflicts. This type of dialogue does not exist in Sierra Leone, where the representatives of MALOA were put in jail. It is skewed in Cote d'Ivoire where the SoGB only recognizes one organization, the AVD, while most of the local communities, who are organized through the UVD, are excluded from negotiations.

Further, Socfin has yet to answer letters from the International Alliance of Local Communities, and we never received its answers following our demands expressed in October 2014. There is no alternative to dialogue. Only the recognition of the impacted communities and the organizations created to defend their rights can enable this dialogue. Today, we are requesting that you demonstrate in concrete terms the will of the Bolloré group to facilitate the dialogue process by:

1) Setting a precise date for a new international meeting, before the end of the year, to respect the promise by the Bolloré group taken in October 2014. This will enable participants to use current progress to define a general action plan for the definitive resolution of the conflicts provoked by the plantations. Similarly to the 2014 meeting, such a meeting would provide the opportunity to publicly recognize the stance taken by the Bolloré group to favour dialogue.

2) Demanding that the Socfin group cease its rejection of dialogue by:

- Answering in written form the letters of the Alliance;
- Engaging in local negotiations with UVD in Cote d'Ivoire; and
- Publicly announcing the easing of tensions in Sierra Leone and committing to engaging in dialogue with the legitimate representatives of affected communities (if necessary, we are open to discuss how to judge this legitimacy).

If Socfin remains resolute in its refusal to dialogue, we ask you respond to these latter three demands as well as provide an explanation for your silence. We count on you to be a mediator between our two parties until we are all able to sit around a table.

The concrete steps that have been taken toward progress in each country will allow for a more productive international meeting. This meeting will provide the occasion to look back, evaluate the visible progress and, together, establish a calendar of negotiations for all the countries involved.

Respectfully,

Sare Tchrouin Ange – UVD President
International Alliance of Local Communities of Socfin-Bolloré plantations

3. RESPONSE FROM VINCENT BOLLORÉ, 4 APRIL 2016



LE PRÉSIDENT DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE
DES RIVERAINS DES PLANTATIONS
SOCFIN - BOLLORÉ
Monsieur SARE TCHROUIN ANGE

Email : asso.uvd13v@gmail.com

Puteaux, le 4 avril 2016

Dear Sir,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter from 19 February, which received my undivided attention.

First off, I would like to confirm that the Socfin Group still, since it's creation in the 19th century, operates responsibly towards its workers and the local communities of its concessions. The company applied principles of sustainable development before the concept even existed.

The Socfin Group invests considerable sums each year, in the millions of euros, to build schools, to maintain roads, to provide drinking water, to provide training to its workers, etc. All this is done in collaboration with the legitimate representatives of the workers and local communities: traditional chiefs, democratically-elected representatives and legally recognised local organisations.

These discussions always taken place and have as their objective a gradual improvement of the living conditions and salaries on the plantations and in neighbouring communities, also taking responsibility for public services that are normally provided by the state.

Since our last exchange in September 2015, I've noted an intensification of dialogue and improved clarity regarding the concrete actions taken in the interest of workers and residents of the plantations. Access to medical centres has been provided; new professional training centres have been created; access to potable water has been improved; and distribution of electricity to the workers' villages has been made more secure.

As I've already noted, I am convinced that solutions can only be arrived at locally. As shareholders, we continue to exert influence on the leaders of Socfin, in whom I have complete confidence and whom I have known for more than 30 years. I will forward your letter to them as well as the summary of actions that were taken in 2015.

Concerning legal actions, please understand that we are unable to intervene in these events.

I remain attentive to these issues and send you my best regards.



Vincent BOLLORÉ

4. LETTER FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO HUBERT FABRI, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SOCFIN, 20 MAY 2016

International Alliance of Local Communities of Socfin-Bolloré Plantations

Union of Villages of Déguerpis (Côte d'Ivoire)
Synergie Nationale des Paysans et Riverains du Cameroun
Malen Land Owners and Users Association (Sierra Leone)
Bunong Association for a Good Future (Cambodia)
District 3 and 4 Affected Communities of LAC (Liberia)
synaparcam@gmail.com - 00237 674 52 93 87



International Alliance
Of Local Communities

20 May 2016

**To: Mr Hubert Fabri
President and CEO of the Socfin Group**

We received your letter dated 4 April and wish to clarify a few issues. In this letter, you highlight several points:

- The fact that the “Socfin Group has always acted as a socially responsible company as regards communities neighbouring its plantations (...) in collaboration with the legitimate representatives of local communities: traditional chiefs and officially recognised organizations”
- The fact that “these discussions have always taken place (...) [and that you had noted] intensification of dialogue”.

We regret that we do not come to your same conclusions when looking at what is happening on the ground, at least in the five countries in which four of our member organisations are present. As Socfin had demanded, we have focused our efforts on trying to make progress and resolve conflicts at the local level. We have attempted to create a productive dialogue between ourselves (legally recognised organisations and their legitimate representatives) and Socfin plantations managers.

It's true that in Liberia and in Cambodia, recent developments inspired hope in our communities, yet today:

- In Liberia, more than a year after the beginning of negotiations with management, members of LAC are given by lip service regarding an agreement to compensate them for destroyed harvests during the last expansion of plantations, which should be paid 30 June. This is significant progress, yet we regret that it took more than a year of pressure and negotiations to achieve what should have been a simple formality since such compensation is mandatory and required by the government. A number of other issues have yet to be addressed and the LAC management is slowing down negotiations. For example, it has postponed the meeting planned for the 18-25 March, which then failed to happen because of it being a holiday; yet management has not taken the initiative to plan another meeting. It had even simply cancelled a meeting planned for 22 December 2015 by the local government representative. Moreover, it refuses to draft with local communities a negotiation schedule.
- Cambodia is the only country where one can speak of a productive dialogue and of regular meetings between the community organization and the management, following the creation of a tripartite dialogue platform. Yet, the dialogue initiated more than a year ago through this process had failed to bring about visible and concrete results for communities. The demarcation work is still on-going. And Socfin-KCD called upon a third party, GIZ, which is not recognized as an independent expert by local communities to intervene in the conflict over land issues. We fear that communities' increasing frustration will spark new rounds of conflicts. This is exacerbated by management giving little sign of its goodwill to achieve concrete progress: for example, it is still arguing over the conditions for a payment of \$40,000, which it had agreed to pay to compensate for the destruction of 142 hectares of communal land and sacred forests. These forests were commemorated in a traditional Bunong ceremony on 25 February 2016. This money has yet to be delivered as the company argues that communities should present specific projects, which management could then select and fund. But communities should decide how to use this compensation for their loss rather than rely on a management decision.

Elsewhere we face various forms of management's refusal to enter into discussion:

In Cameroon:

- Socapalm plantations' local management still refuse to answer officially recognized organizations' letters and systematically oust them from dialogue even though the organizations have sent numerous letters and traditional chiefs have written a clear demand that management should consider them as the interlocutors for issues affecting local communities (see attached the letter of the Kienké chiefs to the Socapalm manager on the 17 March 2016).
- Socapalm's management refused to collaborate fully with the chiefs and with the Synaparcam organisation to discuss the details of terms and conditions for local communities to access the company's health centres. The written responses are incomplete and do not satisfy local communities, while a meeting would have probably already solved the problem. A new protest was organized in April and local communities are still waiting today for an answer by the management to their last letter.
- The manager of the Mbambou plantation refused in a letter dated of 25 April 2016 to meet with the official organization Synaparcam, which represents today more than 900 members, arguing that he negotiates with village chiefs rather than organizations. This meeting however was scheduled in order to continue the dialogue initiated the 20th of

January during the first tripartite platform of the Dizangué district, as was requested by the General Director and the Prefect.

- Regarding the tripartite platforms of negotiations promised by the National Point of Contact and the Sanaga Maritime Prefect to the Synaparcam the 28 April 2015: in the Dibombari plantation, the management has, for months, refused to organize meetings; in the Dizangué district, only one meeting has happened since this promise during the month of January. The following meeting which should have happened on the 6th of April was postponed. And the last meeting planned, 5 May, was cancelled without notice and no new date has been proposed. This showcases that management is not taking seriously this dialogue platform and does not respect local communities' representatives.
- The President of the Socapalm board, which local communities have several times written to and which you yourself designated as the interlocutor to solve the current conflict, has yet to meet with the communities' organization.

In Cameroon, these are the only instances of "dialogue" which one can speak of since June 2015. The dialogue platforms promised for all the plantations are absent from all the other plantations.

In other countries, the situation is even worse:

- The SAC management in Sierra Leone still refuses absolutely to enter in discussion with the MALOA organization which is however a legally recognized organization of more than 1100 members.
- SoGB management still refuses to discuss with UVD, a legally recognized organization representing 220 members which challenges the exclusive dialogue taking place between SoGB and AVD, an organization representing a couple of business people and which is suspected to defend its personal interests over the common interest of all.

Thus we are at pain to understand what you refer to when speaking of «increasing instances of dialogue » since 2015. We fear that you are not aware that the conflicts remain throughout the plantations. We can understand your «absolute trust in the Socfin managers » given the business relations you have and given the probable economic outcomes. However, in the point of view of social responsibility, we severely lack any concrete elements which could prove the management's good will. We can on the other hand provide you with letters and minutes which can prove all the above cited facts.

Socfin does invest in social activities, it may have built schools or provided jump pumps. But it does so in a totally one directional manner, without paying attention to the specific needs of the population and without any transparency. Why couldn't it discuss with the communities so as to use the « millions of euros invested each year by the Socfin Group» in the fairest manner and towards solving the conflict with neighbouring communities? Neighbouring communities lack tangible facts to support the truth of such a claim. This number further blurs the action targeting workers and linked to the HR politic of the company and the actions specifically targeting neighbouring populations. We believe it would be fairer for the Socfin to provide itself the proof of its actions, rather than request local populations to prove that nothing has been done.

To be perfectly clear then, no, the collaboration is far from perfect.

No, meaningful discussion have not taken place. No, there have been no increased instances of dialogue. No, the Socfin social responsibility is far from inspiring. Yes, there have been a few specific instances of progress. This shows that is possible to improve the situation. Yet they stand pale in comparison with the needs, and setbacks occasionally follow the few progresses. When we had celebrated the proposition of tripartite platform in 2015, we now bury our hopes, realizing that they are dysfunctional and bring about nothing. Socfin's social responsibility can be resumed as a series of one-sided actions which do not answer the real expectations and priorities of local communities. And it is asking for congratulations? Mr Bolloré, it is your responsibility to convince Mr. Fabri that there is no alternative to negotiating with the population directly affected by the problems. Or to sell your Socfin shares.

The Bolloré Group stood up in 2014 to guaranty and facilitate the dialogue in the shared aim to solve these conflicts. Today, you are getting behind your partner and claim an absolute trust in him only backed by the information he himself provided. You cannot cash in dividends and Socfin profits and deny you own responsibility as regards the suffering and distress of thousands of people negatively impacted by Socfin's industrial plantations. It is your responsibility to bind Socfin into draft solid dialogue principles and to guarantee local populations' right to appeal when such principles are not respected.

In 2016, 124 multinational companies drafted Global Framework Agreement. Generally, these address labour relations with workers' organizations in all the countries in which the multinational company operates. Given the situation with Socfin, we believe that such a framework agreement could provide an interesting solution to imagine framework for a peaceful dialogue framed by clear rules accepted by all parties. L'UITA which has signed such agreements with groups such as Danone Accor or Chiquita is ready to support such an initiative.

Such an agreement could be a possible outcome of the second international meeting which the Bolloré group, through Marie Annick Darmaillac, promised to organized in November 2014. Then, the plan was to have a midway assessment to evaluate the successes and shortcomings of the local dialogue processes in each country. During this same meeting, the Bolloré group had promised to support independent evaluations of potential conflictual issues. One and a half year later, neither of this promises has been derived.

The fact that you have thrown away your word does not honor your company, and leads us to doubt the truthfulness of your action as regards this case.

In conclusion, we repeat the commitments we are still waiting for you to deliver today:

- An international meeting to sign a global framework agreement which would define the dialogue procedures for each country
- An independent evaluation of the contested land to set the basis of a resolution of land issues.

We hope that your attention will be grabbed by the various points we raise in this letter and that your group will commit to respecting its own values. Please receive our respectful regards.

Respectfully,

**International Alliance of Local Communities of Socfin-Bolloré Plantations
Emmanuel ELONG, President of Synaparcam**



Cc:
Mr. Vincent Bolloré

5. EXCERPT FROM THE BOLLORÉ GROUP'S FINANCIAL REPORT, MARCH 2016



Groupe Bolloré | Résultats 2015

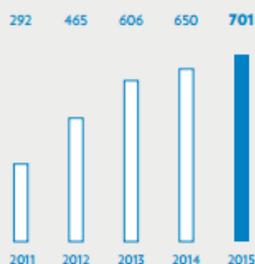
Le 24 mars 2016

▪ Chiffre d'affaires :	10 824 millions d'euros , +2 % en données publiées (-2 % à périmètre et taux de change constants)
▪ EBITDA :	1 114 millions d'euros , +9 %
▪ Résultat opérationnel :	701 millions d'euros , +8 %
▪ Résultat net part du Groupe :	564 millions d'euros , +161 %
▪ Investissements industriels nets :	771 millions d'euros , +25 %
▪ Endettement net :	4 281 millions d'euros (gearing : 38 %)
▪ Valeur boursière du portefeuille :	4 977 millions d'euros au 31/12/2015
▪ Proposition de dividende :	0,06 euro par action (soit un montant de 173 millions d'euros) dont 0,02 euro d'acompte déjà versé en octobre 2015, identique à celui de l'exercice précédent.

Excerpt from the 2015 activity report, April 2016

ÉVOLUTION DU RÉSULTAT OPÉRATIONNEL

(en millions d'euros)



ACTIFS AGRICOLES

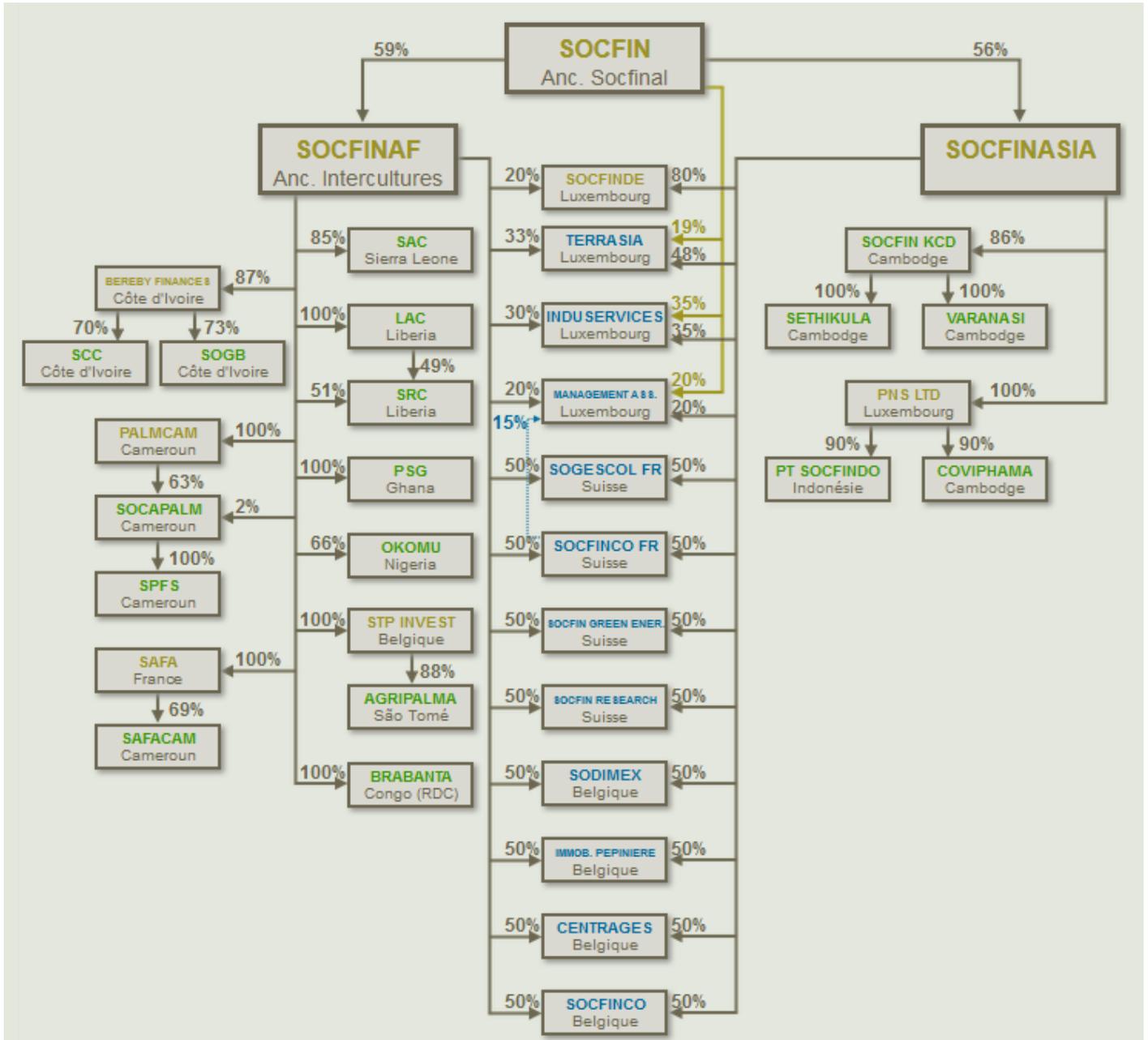
Au travers de ses participations dans Socfin (38,8 %) et dans ses filiales Socfinasia (21,8 %) et Socfinaf (8,6 %), dont la valeur boursière s'établit à 224 millions d'euros au 31 décembre 2015, le Groupe Bolloré est un actionnaire important du groupe Socfin. Celui-ci est l'un des principaux planteurs indépendants dans le monde et gère près de 187 000 hectares de plantations.

En Asie, Socfin est présent en Indonésie au travers de Socfindo, qui exploite 48 000 hectares de palmiers à huile et d'hévéas, et s'est récemment implanté au Cambodge, où il a entrepris la création de 12 000 hectares de plantations d'hévéas (7 400 hectares plantés à fin 2015).

En Afrique, Socfin possède de nombreuses implantations dans différents pays, comme le Cameroun, où Socapalm et SAFACAM gèrent 45 000 hectares de palmiers à huile et d'hévéas, ou encore la Côte d'Ivoire, où la Société des Caoutchoucs de Grand Bereby (SOGB) exploite 23 500 hectares de palmiers et d'hévéas. Il est également présent au Nigeria (18 500 hectares), au Liberia (18 500 hectares), en République démocratique du Congo (6 200 hectares) et en Sierra Leone (12 600 hectares).



6. ORGANISATIONAL CHART OF SOCFIN



Nombre total d'actions émises: 14.240.000
Nombre total de droits de vote: 14.240.000
Capital (en Euros): 24.920.000

Actionnaires	Nombre de titres détenus = Nb de droits de vote	Pourcentage détenu	Date de la notification
Afico S.A. L-1650 Luxembourg	80.991	11,38 %	20-12-1999
Palmeraies de Mopoli S.A. B-1050 Bruxelles	32.000	4,49 %	20-12-1999
Twosun Fin. Establishment CH-1201 Genève	80.000	11,24 %	20-12-1999
Geselfina S.A. FL-9490 Vaduz	164.125	23,05 %	20-12-1999

7. LETTER FROM LOCAL VILLAGE CHIEFS AND MEMBERS OF SYNAPARCAM (ORGANISATION OF LOCAL PEOPLE IN CAMEROON), 17 FEBRUARY 2016

**Les chefs des villages riverains/local village chiefs
Socapalm Kienké éloignés
Du centre urbain de Kribi**

Dear Mr Yannick Vernet, CEO of Socapalm,

Thank you for your letter (DARHJC/DAF/2016/) sent to the village chiefs of Socapalm Kienké last month.

We are concerned about certain expressions you have used, such as talking about: “enlightened’ and ‘all-knowing’ individuals who go from village to village explaining the supposed obligations of Socapalm”. We are writing to you because we’d like to underline a few important issues.

First, we want to emphasise that the concerns we outlined in our letter dated 1 February were made with complete autonomy. We, of course, reviewed information that was circulated in our communities in arriving at our conclusions.

We are members of an organisation that you denigrate. We were offended by the harshness of your comments, which bordered on intimidation. It is not possible to talk of “peaceful coexistence” when we live under such strong pressures, even if the tensions have eased in some ways, between Socapalm and local communities. There are so many unmet expectations in our communities that we have no choice but to speak out. We can’t forget, for example, the altercations that took place on 7 January 2003 between Socapalm security forces and local youths from Nkolembonda, Nkolon, Bidou 2 and Bidou 3, who became victims of violence...

Synaparcam is the legal organisation through which we have decided to make our legitimate demands, such as our most recent demand of “access to medical care in the Socapalm hospital for local community members who don’t have access to health facilities in faraway urban centres”.

We would also like to remind you of the following articles in your purchase agreement:

- Article 8.4: Obligation to provide public services related to the company’s activities
- Article 8.4.2: These engagements must involve the following:
 - Provision of healthcare, education and housing

While our interpretation may be viewed as “partisan and laughable” and our expectations may seem unreasonable, they are founded on a number of promises that your company made in the past in order to gain our acceptance and obtain our lands.

Since, as you indicated, your health centre only served 113 medical emergencies, we would like to raise the issue of the other 2,218 recipients of medical care in your facilities:

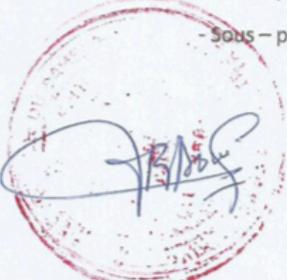
- If this refers to types of care delivered by Socapalm (monitoring the health of workers, helping workers to adapt to the workplace, providing health information and education to workers, training and prevention, first aid...) then this refers exclusively to care provided by the company to its workers. It does not relate to care provided to local communities who are not employees of your company, as we understand.
- If this refers to care delivered to community members who are not employees of Socapalm and are, as you claim, “notable acts of citizenship”, what kinds of care did they involve?

Despite a rigorous attempt to obtain the complete list of healthcare services provided by your medical facilities, and under what conditions we could access them, we have not obtained clear and adequate information.

It is in the spirit of “maintaining a peaceful, neighbourly and sustainable relationship” with Socapalm that we are relaying to you the unhappiness that is growing in our communities. We have yet to receive a satisfying answer from you. Our communities wish to know if Socapalm is willing to welcome us in its medical centre, to provide us with health services, and under what conditions. Consequently, we would like to request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience. Our representatives are happy to come meet you as per your availability.

Sincerely,

Ampliations : - Préfet département Océan
- Sous – préfet Kribi 1^{er}
- Sous – préfet Lokoundje



S.M BIDOU ROBERT



Nguibours Joachim
CHEF DE VILLAGE



SM NZIE MARC



S. M. Zak Richard



Sa Majesté
Soussou Alain Jacques



Couch Clément
Chef du Village - LENDI

9. LETTER FROM SYNAPARCAM TO SOCAPALM, SUBSIDIARY OF SOCFIN IN CAMEROON, APRIL 2016



**Synergie Nationale des Paysans
Et Riverains du Cameroun**

BP 103 Nkapa Cameroun

ANTENNE MBAMBOU

TEL: 663955168 / 665322346



**International Alliance
Of Local Communities**

**To: Plantation Director, Socapalm MBAMBOU
21 April 2016**

Re: Presentation of the key demands of coastal plantations MBAMBOU

We acknowledge receipt of the letter you sent to members of the antenna of SYNAPARCAM Mbambou on 29 April.

In reference to remarks made in the letter such as: "We will not respond positively to your request since a tripartite dialogue platform already exists within our plantations" and "the village chief is the only legitimate interlocutor with whom we negotiate," We have decided to write to you to express our concerns and highlight a few important issues.

Please recall that at the first tripartite meeting in Dizangue on 20 January, the leadership and CEO of Socapalm requested that the local communities (chiefdom and synaparcam) get in touch directly with plantation directors in order to identify different problems that exist and find solutions wherever possible.

In this context, members of Synaparcam—a legal entity that is entitled to defend the interests of the residents of the village Mbimbe—had one meeting with plantation management, including representatives of the chiefdom and the Committee of development. Your employees made it clear that certain issues could not be addressed in your absence; thus, our priority issues were not answered. Your employees said they would let us know when you returned to the region. This promise, however, was not kept. And with the new meeting of the tripartite platform approaching, we feel the need, as representatives of local people of the Mbambou plantation, to remind you of the commitments you have made.

What other representatives may have done or not done at that first meeting remains their responsibility and should not prevent us from continuing this dialogue. Nor should it prevent your company's management from continuing the dialogue begun on 23 March 2016. And yet, you cut this dialogue short in your last letter.

The management of Mbambou and has, over the past two months, still not convened a new meeting with the three entities representing the people of Mbambou.

We would like to remind you once again of our unmet demands:

- ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY (Support for the extension of connection cables to allow local people to subscribe to ENEO)
- ACCESS TO SAFE WATER: Given the pollution of our rivers because of Socapalm's activities and the lack of a functioning water distribution system, we demand the construction of water towers where households can obtain water without conditions. We can carry out an assessment of the drinking water supply, While you committed to carrying out an analysis of the water supply on March 23 2016, we believe the analysis is not being performed in a satisfactory manner..

Your refusal to engage in a dialogue with Synaparcam and the lack of progress on the above issues, are of great concern to us, especially considering the letter from Bolloré's dated 4 April to the International Alliance of Local Communities (of which SYNAPARCAM is a member), which claimed: "the SOCFIN group invests considerable sums each year, which number in the millions of euros, to build schools, clinics, maintain roads, provide drinking water... All this in close collaboration with the legitimate representatives of local communities: traditional chiefs, representatives of the people [...] and legally recognized local organisations. "

In short, we demand the opening of a direct dialogue to provide us with answers to questions that are still pending, by the end of the month. It is also your responsibility (not ours) to convene other institutions with which you want to negotiate. We do not speak on their behalf, but we do speak on behalf of our members, residents of the village of Mbimbe.

Sincerely,

Synaparcam-Antenne Mbambou
Antoine Kongolo, Coordinator

CC :

- **Gouverneur Région du Littoral**
- **Préfet Département Sanaga Maritime**
- **Sous - Préfet Arrondissement Dizangue**
- **Chef du village MBIMBE**
- **Chef du village MBANA**



8. RESPONSE FROM SOCAPALM, APRIL 2016

21 April 2016

Sir,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter regarding the request for a meeting addressed to the Plantation Director of Mbambou.

We cannot respond favourably to your request since there already exists a permanent tripartite dialogue platform on our plantations between local populations, Socapalm and the Cameroonian state.

Regarding any issues on the Mbambou Plantation, the village chief of Mbimbe is the only legitimate interlocutor with whom we negotiate, in the hopes of a peaceful and harmonious coexistence with local communities.

(Original French below)

SOCIETE CAMEROUNAISE DE PALMERAIES
SOCIETE ANONYME AVEC CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION AU CAPITAL DE 15 252 530 000 FRANCS CFA
B.P. 691 Douala - Cameroun
Téléphone : (237) 33 43 77 83 - 33 43 87 26 - Tél/Fax : (237) 33 43 87 34

Mbambou, le 25 Avril 2016

SOCAPALM

Président de SYNAPARCAM,
Antenne de MBAMBOU
B.P. : 103 NKAPA, CAMEROUN

Reçu le 23/04/2016

Objet : V/C du 21 avril 2016 « Demande d'audience ».

Monsieur,

Nous accusons réception de votre correspondance sus visée en objet, relative à la demande d'audience adressée au Directeur de Plantation de Mbambou.

En réponse, nous ne saurions donner suite favorable à votre demande étant donné qu'il existe déjà au sein de nos plantations une **plate forme tripartite permanente de dialogue** entre les populations riveraines, la SOCAPALM et l'Etat du Cameroun, cadre de prédilection de concertation et de dialogue.

Par ailleurs, pour ce qui concerne notre plantation de Mbambou, le Chef du village Mbimbe est le seul interlocuteur légitime avec lequel nous travaillons dans l'optique d'une cohabitation harmonieuse et pacifique avec les populations riveraines.

Recevez Monsieur, nos meilleures salutations.

E. WANJIE SG SYNAPARCAM
H. B. AMEUN

JAIL TERM FOR ACTIVISTS IN SIERRA LEONE, TRIAL OF FRENCH JOURNALISTS IN PARIS: CRITICS OF BOLLORÉ SILENCED

A day before the start of yet another trial brought by the Bolloré Group against French journalists, organisations denounce the imprisonment on February 5th of six local community leaders affected by the investments of Socfin Agricultural Company Sierra Leone Ltd (SAC), a subsidiary of Socfin, linked to Bolloré.*

A year ago, Shiaka Sama was invited to Paris by the Bolloré Group to find a solution to the conflicts linked to the exploitation of plantations in Africa and Cambodia by subsidiaries of Socfin. Today, he is behind bars in Bo, the second largest city of Sierra Leone. Five other activists have also been incarcerated, after being found guilty of destroying 40 oil palm plants. The six activists, who deny the charges, are members of the Malen Affected Land Owners and Users Association (MALOA). Unless they can pay a fine ranging from 6,500 to 13,000 Euros per person, they each face five to six months in jail.

Since 2011, the SAC, a subsidiary of the Luxembourg-based holding company Socfin, has been granted 12,000 hectares of land concessions previously owned and used by thousands of farmers across 40 villages. Many protests have erupted and been repressed. Demonstrators were arrested in October 2011 and again in August 2012. Arrests took place in October 2013. On 9 December 2013, the police fired on and arrested demonstrators. On 14 January 2015, 11 people were arrested after clashes. Seven MALOA members were arrested on 8 September 2015.

The Bolloré Group retains (directly and indirectly) a 38.75% shareholding in Socfin. Bolloré committed to use its influence to resolve these land disputes. The Group received Shiaka Sama and other affected community representatives in Paris on 24 October 2014. Bolloré agreed to a second negotiating round in 2015, but this never took place.

Shiaka Sama stated his fears a few days before the verdict: "Bolloré does not keep its promises to mediate, and allows Socfin to punish people instead of engaging in dialogue. In Sierra Leone, Socfin has sworn to use its influence to put us in jail for denouncing community rights abuses that they have committed in Malen."

Repression of activists in Sierra Leone, SLAPP suits in France

On 11 February 2016, journalists from Bastamag will appear in a hearing in Paris for defamation charges brought in by the Bolloré Group. The company filed a complaint following the publication of an article denouncing land grabbing and the involvement of investment funds and transnational corporations. This type of lawsuit, known as a "Strategic lawsuit against public participation" (SLAPP), follows many others filed by the Bolloré and Socfin groups against journalists and NGOs over the past years. The moral and financial pressure generated by these lawsuits hampers freedom of expression in France and increases the power imbalance between rights defenders and journalists on the one hand and groups like Bolloré on the other.

A mobilisation will take place at 5pm tomorrow in front of the 17th Chamber of the High Court of Paris to support the journalists and demand the release of the six jailed Sierra Leoneans. Communities from other plantations operated by subsidiaries of Socfin will also be taking action in the coming days to show their solidarity and offer their moral and financial support.

(*) Socfin Agricultural Company Sierra Leone Ltd: Socfin owns 59% of SOCFINAF, which own 85% of SAC. Source: Socfin Organisation, <http://www.socfin.com>

Media contacts:

Sierra Leone:

- Joseph Rahall (Green Scenery): +23222220400 – Mobile: +23276601979
- Anthony Brewah (defense counsel for MALOA): +23276610400

France:

- Éloïse Maulet (ReAct): eloise.maulet@projet-react.org, +33638012594
- Arthur Manet (FIDH): presse@fidh.org, +33672284294

USA:

- Frédéric Mousseau (Oakland Institute): fmousseau@oaklandinstitute.org, +15105125458

More information:

- For more information about the Socfin project in Sierra Leone and local opposition in the country, a report and a video made by the Oakland Institute are available at:

<http://www.oaklandinstitute.org/land-deal-brief-socfin-land-investment-sierra-leone>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abEdrPYqtKA>

- The article cited in the defamation lawsuit: <http://www.bastamag.net/Bollore-Credit-agricole-Louis>

- Urgent appeals by the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint FIDH-OMCT programme:

<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/Africa/sierra-leone/>

- Socfin, Sustainability Report 2014, <http://www.socfin.com/Files/media/News/Sustainability-report-2014-def.pdf>



Shiaka Sama au centre avec Marie Annick Darmaillac, ex-secrétaire générale du groupe Bolloré le 24/10/2014



Réseau Foi & Justice
Afrique - Europe
Africa Europe Faith
& Justice Network
Antenne France



un programme conjoint
OMCT fidh
Réseau SOS-torture
L'Observatoire pour la
Protection des Défenseurs
des Droits de l'Homme

