

Mr. Vincent Bolloré
32 Quai de Dion Bouton
92811 Puteaux

Dear Mr. Bolloré,

The group that you control has an enormous impact on our lives, and yet we have never had direct contact with this group's representatives. We write to you today in the hope of resolving this problem.

We are the representatives of the villagers affected by the Bolloré-controlled Socfin plantations in various countries throughout Africa. We live in towns next to Socapalm in Cameroon, SoGB in the Ivory Coast, LAC or SRC in Liberia, and SAC in Sierra Leone.

The problems that the villagers must deal with on the plantations you control

You must surely be aware that oil palm farming was of utmost important for the farm communities in Cameroon and the Ivory Coast, and that the creation of oil palm agro-industries along with the development of residential communities on the plantations further increased oil palm farming activity.

But as of several years now, this development that was originally presented as a win-win situation for everyone involved has been ruined by your company's practices:

- The mindless monopolizing of land that leaves the local residents with no proper living space nor the possibility of growing their crops
- The poor compensations granted to the residential populations
- Major decrease in services and contributions for the social development of the villages, contrary to the services originally mentioned
- Poor treatment of villagers by police squads employed or sponsored by private security associations (imprisonment, police brutality, etc.)

These are just a few examples from a long list of problems that are the recurring source of conflicts between the local residents and the Socfin-Bolloré companies.

We demand:

1. **Protection of the vital living space of villages** on or near the plantations:
 - a. Land retrocession for guaranteeing vital living space
 - b. Supervision and monitoring of plantation extensions
2. **Compensation** for the local residents for their lost land:
 - a. The funding for social services provided by the companies
 - b. Support for the development of village populations

In order to carry out these different changes, the residential organizations must be recognized (Concern Union Citizen in Liberia, Synaparcam in Cameroon, Maloa in Sierra Leone) and negotiations must be set up and regularly take place in order to manage these conflicts.

Signed

Ivory Coast

Committee for SoGB Residents: Batcha, Djimbo, Djoro, Héké 19, Irépoué, Kako, Klotou, Ouéoulo, Oulibio, Oulidié, Pataké, Téklébo, Trahé

Contact : Julien Doba Nemlin : +225 44 34 69 43 - doxa.julien@gmail.com

Cameroon

Synaparcam-Bolloré (Syndicat National des Paysans et Riverains du Cameroun) : Mbonjo 1 et 2, Bomone Mbamengue, Nkapa, Mbongo, Piti Dibamba, Mbanda, Koungue, Mbambou, Nkondjok, Ndogbom, Apouh, Bikondo, Bilolo, Bissiang, Poungo, Lendi, Bidou 2 et 3, Mbeka, Mvombélé, Nvougangom, Mvabenanga, Njassok , Nyambon, Gongos, Padjob, Songlibol

Contact : Emmanuel Elong : +237 74 52 93 87 - eelong4m@yahoo.fr

Sierra Leone

MALOA (Malen Land Owners Association) : Bamba, Hongai, Hinai, Kortumahun, Jumborhun, Bassalleh, Nianyahun, Kpangba, Bomuvulahun, Fakaba, Taninahun, Kanga, Banalleh, Senehun, Kassay, Massao, Kpombu, Votanie, Sarhun, Gbongboma, Jumbu, Sinj, Sahn, Tissana, Sembehun, Ngandorhun

Contact : Sima Mattia : +232 76 41 62 67

Liberia

Concern Citizen Union-SRC : Kwata, Massa Town, Tarte Town, Dedee Town, Quenna Town, Kolleh Longbong Town, Glongalai Old Town, Malongai, Lango Town, Thomas Juwoo Town, Pennoh Town

Contact : Alexander Bonard : +231 880 98 51 91