
[Organizations demand an end to Socapalm's violence against communities in Cameroon](#)

On March 25, the palm oil company Socapalm, a subsidiary of the multinational Socfin-Bolloré, carried out a violent operation with security forces against a rural community that is demanding the return of its lands, in Apouh A Ngog village, in the Littoral Region of Cameroon. In an open letter, more than 50 organizations from different countries demanded that the country's authorities investigate and stop these atrocities and find an immediate solution in favour of the community.

[Download the letter in pdf](#)

2 April 2025

Dear Senior Divisional Officer of Sanaga Maritime,

We are honoured to come before your high authority to inform you of the following:

On March 25, 2025, the people living in Apouh A Ngog village in the Littoral Region of Cameroon witnessed a brutal and traumatising act of intimidation : heavily armed government forces, including heavily armed soldiers and gendarmes arriving to supervise the replanting of oil palms by staff of SOCAPALM, part of the multinational corporation Socfin Bolloré. These operations of oil palm replanting led to the destruction of more than 6000 banana saplings that were planted by the community in January 2025. This presence of armed forces is a stark reminder of the historical injustices faced by communities living around agroindustries in Cameroun.

The land in question has been occupied by SOCAPALM for over 60 years, with the company taking over 98% of the village lands during the colonial period. The villagers have been left with virtually no land to grow food, cash crops, or even bury their loved ones. Despite numerous attempts to negotiate the return of land as vital living spaces around the villages with the company, the villagers have been met with intimidation, threats, arbitrary arrest and detention without trial.

The destruction of the banana plants has had a devastating impact on the women in the village, who rely on agriculture for their livelihood. The loss of their crops has destroyed a vital source of income, exacerbating poverty and hunger in the community.

Furthermore, SOCAPALM's replanting right behind houses and over grave sites has also erased their cultural heritage and traditional way of life.

SOCAPALM has been accused of land grabbing and human rights abuses in Cameroon. The company has been operating in the country for decades, taking over large tracts of land from rural communities. The Cameroon government has been complicit in these land grabs, providing military

support to the company and ignoring the rights of rural communities.

The struggle for community control of ancestral lands is a matter of justice, equality, and human rights. It is of the utmost importance that we support rural communities in their struggle for access to their ancestral lands.

We demand that the Senior Divisional Officer of Sanaga Maritime and the government of Cameroon:

1. engage, urgently, in meaningful dialogue with the people of Apouh A Ngog to address their demands for access to the lands of their ancestors.
2. respect and restore the rights of the communities of Apouh, whose wellbeing it must ensure, and ensure that SOCAPALM stops the oil palm replanting operations on the disputed sites;
3. open an investigation on the rights violations suffered by the villagers of Apouh, on the destruction of the banana plants, and hold those responsible for this destruction accountable.

In solidarity with the people of Apouh A Ngog, particularly with the women who are defending their cause:

1. AFERISE (Association des Femmes Riveraines de Socapalm Eseka), Cameroon
2. AFRISE (Association des Femmes Riveraines de Socapalm Edea), Cameroon
3. AFRISH CEA (Association des Femmes Riveraines de Sud Cam Hevea), Cameroon
4. AFRISKI (Association des Femmes riveraines Socapalm Kienke), Cameroon
5. AFRISO (Association des Femmes Riveraines Socapalm), Cameroon
6. Alliance for Rural Democracy, Liberia
7. APDDH Association Pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme, Cameroon
8. Association des Journalistes Camerounais pour l'Agriculture et le Développement (AJAD), Cameroon
9. Association Gulusenu du village Doubou, Gabon
10. Association les Rassembleurs du Village Mboukou, Gabon
11. Association pour la Solidarité et le Développement Durable (AS2D), Cameroon
12. Bunong Indigenous People Association (BIPA), Cambodia
13. CNOP, Congo-Brazzaville
14. COFERISO (Collectif des Femmes Riveraines Sosucam Mbandjock), Cameroon
15. COLLECTIF ADIAKE. Cote d'Ivoire
16. Collectif des Ressortissants et Écologistes des Plateaux Batéké, Gabon
17. COPACO, DR Congo
18. CPH, Côte d'Ivoire
19. CPPH, Côte d'Ivoire
20. Family Farm Defenders, USA
21. Femme actuelle de évolution de la culture Cameroun Nkolfoulou, Cameroon
22. FIAN Belgium, Belgium
23. FIAN International
24. FIAN Switzerland, Switzerland
25. GRAIN, International
26. INSPIRIT Creatives NGO, Germany
27. Institute of Sustainable Agriculture, Liberia
28. Inter Pares, Canada
29. Joegba United Women Empowerment and Development Organization (JUWEDO), Liberia

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31. Justice ensemble, France
 32. JVE, Côte d'Ivoire
 33. JVE, Gabon
 34. Kebekatche Women Development & Resource Centre, Nigeria
 35. Komolo Agro Farmers Association Kiryandongo, Uganda
 36. Les Soulèvements de la terre, France
 37. Look Green Care Foundation, Nigeria
 38. Maloa, Sierra Leone
 39. Milieudefensie, The Netherlands
 40. Musiru Divag de Fougamou, Gabon
 41. Muyissi Environnement, Gabon
 42. Natural Resource Women Platform, Liberia
 43. Nature Cameroon, Cameroon
 44. Ndagize Julius, Uganda
 45. Ndieme Ndong, Senegal
 46. Oakland Institute, USA
 47. Parti Révolutionnaire Communistes, France
 48. Public Eye, Switzerland
 49. RADD (Réseau des Acteurs du Développement Durable), Cameroon
 50. RAJORNY (Rassemblement des jeunes originaires de Nye'été), Cameroon
 51. ReAct Transnational, France
 52. REFEB, Cote d'Ivoire
 53. Solifonds, Switzerland
 54. Struggle to Economize Future Environment (SEFE), Mundemba, Cameroon
 55. Synaparcam, Cameroon
 56. Tano Women Empowerment and Development Association (Tweda), Ghana
 57. Union Locale des Femmes de Mar Lotie Region Fatick, Commune Fimela, Senegal
 58. Union Locale des Femmes Transformatrice de Ndangane, Senegal
 59. Witness Radio, Uganda
 60. Women's Network Against Rural Plantations Injustice (WoNARPI), Sierra Leone
 61. World Rainforest Movement (WRM), Uruguay
 62. YVE, Ghana

Copy to:

- Divisional Officer of Edéa
- Governor of the Littoral
- MINDCAF
- Prime Minister's Office
- Socapalm

For further information please contact:

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