

# Act up with SURVIE

**S**URVIE is a non-profit association of concerned citizens created in 1984 following upon an international appeal against worldwide hunger signed by 123 Nobel Prize recipients. Our work is made possible thanks to the mobilization of our members and sympathizers, be they ordinary citizens or specialists. SURVIE bases its actions on the legitimacy shared by all citizens to require our elected representatives to account for their policy choices in all public and private domains open to legislation.

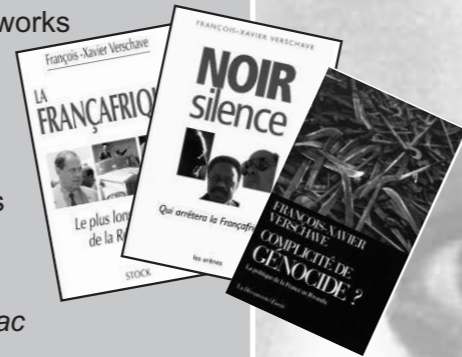
**O**ur sources of information stem from daily press reports as well as prodigious amounts of general and specialized literature. A progressively worldwide network of contacts and correspondents have considerably enhanced the quality and relevance of our fact finding activity allowing us to cross examine most news reporting for viability. In short we have become a collective think tank that thinks differently about North-South relationships.

**Analyses and deciphers** all types of information from government commissioned reports to people magazine blurbs in order to understand the economic motivation, social connection and political logic underlying Françafrique and to identify their networks

**Informs and averts the public :** through :

- Information campaigns and the distribution of brochures and documentary videos
- Conferences, debates and targeted counter-summits
- Publication of books many of which have become basic reference material, like François-Xavier Verschave's *La Françafrique*, *Noir silence*, *Noir Chirac* and others
- Publication of a series of *Black Reports of France's African Politics* which deal with specific economic or political aspects of Françafrique
- a monthly subscriber newsletter, *Notices from Africa* and other places

**Acts up :** writes letters to economic policy makers and elected officials, launches petitions, organizes public gatherings, holds press conferences and monitors information stands at cultural events.



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**Combat**  
Françafrique

**Prevent**  
genocide and refuse the trivialization of genocide

**Promote**  
the universal access to public goods and services

**What You Can Do :**  
**Join us, Support us, Help us to grow !**

Last name : ..... First name : .....

Address : .....

Téléphone : ..... E-Mail : .....

- I want to help SURVIE by contributing : ..... €
- I want to become a member of SURVIE and include my yearly dues of 52 € or 15 € for students. My dues amount to.....€. Donations are eligible for certificates of tax reduction by 66%
- I want to subscribe to SURVIE's monthly French newsletter, *Billets d'Afrique (Notices from Africa)* for 25 € in France or 30 € .... outside of France. My payment amounts to..... €.
- I want to be informed of SURVIE's activities and participate in SURVIE's initiatives

Mode of payment: bank or postal € checks made out to SURVIE / postal orders to CCP 500.52K Paris / or paypal via <http://survie.org>

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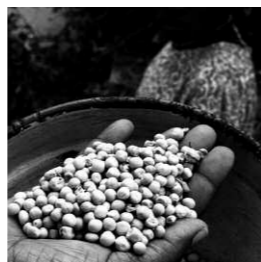
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# The unbearable in Africa...

**Ressources and Famines** - Historically speaking great famines have never been simply the result of crop failure, drought, erosion or flooding, not in India, China, Brazil, Ireland or Russia. In Africa as anywhere else famines are also not fatalities of climate or geography but the concomitant result of prolonged starvation in societies which have been uprooted through forced displacement and subsequently de-vitalized by destruction of livelihoods. Decades of dictatorship, civil war and foreign, military intervention (the 1967 French military intervention in Biafra for example) have laid to waste whole regions in sub-Saharan Africa, depriving their populations of natural resources and ruining their efforts of development.



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**Multimillionaires and pauperization** - Mobutu (Zaire, estimated Bank fortune upon death in 1997... 6 billion Euros), Omar Bongo (Gabon), Denis Sassou Nguesso (Congo-B), Paul Biya (Cameroon) to name just a few, were and are multimillionaire heads of states, rich in exploitable resources (oil, minerals, wood). They lord over populations whose economies over the last thirty years have joined the bottom ranks of the world's poorest. What is the origin of their colossal bankrolls? Development loan misappropriation, graft, corruption compounded with natural resource scams (diamond traffic, illicit wood concessions, hidden oil royalties, etc) continue to dilapidate public treasuries. All international human development indicators show that the revenues generated by pillaging natural resources are not reinvested to create or maintain needy infrastructure. They do however insure presidential staying power by financing hordes of clients including cooperative French multinationals and political parties over here in France. In the process most of the population is deprived access to education, health care, drinkable water, sewage systems, housing, decent labor, elementary legal rights... in short divested of the basic right to develop a viable society for themselves.

**Dictators and sponsorship** - Millions of households in French neocolonial Africa have to manage in states ruled by Françafrique sponsored presidents, seemingly "elected" for life. From Charles de Gaulle on through to Nicolas Sarkozy, France cultivates her particular brand of *realpolitik* by sponsoring collections of dictators with long standing records of criminal, human rights violations. The rogue roster includes the well known Chadian torturer Hissène Habré, eventually replaced by Idriss Deby, first Togo's Eyadema Sr. then Eyadema Jr., Blaise Campaoré in Burkina Faso, Paul Biya of Cameroon, Ben Ali in Tunisia and last but not least, the sinister Ismael Guelleh in "our" military republic of Djibouti.

By furnishing arms equipments and police instruction, as well as by validating fraudulent elections Françafrique keeps these dictatorships in place, and makes it unlikely for opposition groups with any sort of democratic agenda to emerge and survive.



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**Massacres and complaisant silence** - Just as in the heyday of colonialism the massacre of populations continues. In contemporary African politics, dictators do not preclude physically attacking the population base of their real or potential rivals if by such tactics they can remain in power. Why? How? Because given the continuing flux of arms provided by complaisant foreign sponsors, and given their immune status whole sale slaughter of populations obviously seems the most straightforward "option" for winning their adhesion. A part from the occasional human rights plea, usually at some ceremonial occasion, France has never opposed such criminal tactics to promote or maintain an official friend in power.... quite the contrary! Had the French government done so recently in the Congo or Rwanda, Survie might not be such a thriving, critical think-tank today!

**What about France's present attitude towards the massacres in Darfour more than a decade after the debacle in Rwanda?** Our official position towards Sudan's Warlords flip flops between soft pleas for some ill defined "right of humanitarian intervention" espoused by our Foreign Affairs minister, Bernard Kouchner and the hard nosed *realpolitik* of President Sarkozy who is most unlikely to sacrifice his aggressive commercial agenda in the Middle East to the altar of human rights.

... stems from causes which are first and foremost **political**  
They can and must be reversed!



## Survie's position on North-South development politics :

The problems of development and poverty in the Southern hemisphere are above all of a political order: they are Western and G-8 executives who continue to back up dictatorships that ride roughshod over their own citizens and in the process rip-off natural resources thereby compromising the future development of generations to come. Survie's awareness campaigns in France have made growing numbers of fellow citizens realize that the so called enigma of failed development in the former French colonies is no enigma at all ; the problem of French relations with African states since the 1960s is no longer France-in-Africa but above all Françafrique in Africa. Survie strives to make our citizens and parliamentary representatives aware of the distinction !



## What will stop Françafrique ? Survie's engagements

- Reform of France's foreign policies in Africa. In partnership with other African organizations and NGOs in France Survie coordinates a citizens platform, "France-Africa" which has recently published a *White Book for Responsible and Transparent Policies in Africa* (Harmattan/Paris 2007). *The White Book* makes specific proposals for parliamentary legislation which if adopted would finally allow our elected representatives to control executive foreign policies and praxis.
- End of "dictator friend" sponsorships ! France's long lasting and embarrassing liaison with some of the most decrepit executives in Africa has made us the laughing stock of authentic, human rights diplomacy. Survie campaigns against these unsavory partnerships especially when our President leaves the Elysee to review his troops in Africa or invites his "dictator counterpart" to dinner over here on the taxpayer's tab .
- The truth and nothing but the truth about what France's top civilian decision makers and military commanders did and did not do in Rwanda before the genocide, during the genocide and immediately afterwards! Unlike academic research on sensitive national issues we seek the TRUTH NOW and are obviously unwilling to wait out the 50 or 75 years it takes IN FRANCE for defense archives to "drop into" the public domain in order to verify the correctness of our allegations. Survie's active participation in the 2004 non-official but independent "Citizen's Inquiry Commission" (CEC in French) led to the publication in 2005 of one more major report in French on the crucial question of France's executive and command responsibility in the accomplishment of the genocide by the Hutu extremist Interim Government (*L'Horreur qui nous prend au visage*, under the direction of Laure Coret and François-Xavier Verschave/Karthala-Paris 2005). Slowly but surely our painstaking investigations and legal actions have begun to attract attention to our repeated calls since the Rwandan genocide for judicial proceedings against ALL persons, including French nationals, accused of crimes against humanity or complicity to commit genocide.
- The battle against tax havens and tax evasion. In a number of monographs and open debates Survie has consistently exposed the morally unacceptable and deleterious consequences of unregulated global finance (the erosion of public tax budgets for instance and massive off shore money laundering). *The White Book for Responsible and Transparent Policies in Africa* includes proposals for legislation from ATTAC-France, Survie and another citizen's platform, "Fiscal and Judicial Paradise," all of whom call for complete disclosure of revenues generated outside of France by the petroleum and extractive industries with headquarters in France (Total, Areva, Bolloré, Thanry, Pallisco....) .
- Drop the debt for IMF development loans: Survie together with other associations like the citizens' platform, "Debt and Development" has often reconstructed the sinuous paths of development aid scams which in fact cannot operate without involving many elected officials and simple employees at all levels of government. These reoccurring, big time frauds are regularly lost to judicial manoeuvrings and cascading acquittals before dropping out of sight forever. In the meantime precious tax resources evaporate within a growing climate of corruption and resignation which in turn undermines our judiciary and discourages civic reaction. Therefore, alerting public opinion to the counterproductive effects as well as the questionable fundamentals of international debt payments still remains a priority for Survie.