

Declaration of the Togolese Diaspora in Germany against the anarchic exploitation of Togolese mines.

Grouped under the association CDDA Committee for Democracy and Development in Africa) and Albatros (Deutsch- Togoische Medizinische Hilfsorganisation) in Heidelberg on 25 September 2020.

The political deadlines in Togo (elections, agreements, dialogues, negotiations) that could lead to the establishment of democracy, the rule of law, humanitarian law, good management of state and public property, freedom of expression, demonstration, media, environmental development, and social life ... are always doomed to fail.

Togo is currently living in a post-electoral crisis where 2 candidates for the presidential election of February 22, 2020, claim the presidential chair or the victory of the people (Faure Essossinam Gnassingbé who keeps it for a 4th term, Agbéyomé Kodzo candidate of the dynamic Monsignor Kpodzro DMK who also claims it.

Stop the destruction of the environment by the extraction of calcium, iron, phosphate, etc. in Togo.

Why HeidelbergCement?

Since 1984, HeidelbergCement has been represented in Togo by some Togolese companies such as CIMTOGO. In 2014, through its subsidiary SCANTOGO in the prefecture of Yoto in Tabligbo in the south of Togo will produce clinkers. The main activity is the extraction of limestone in Sika-Kondji on an area of 14.1 km². It is far from the largest investors in Togo and has a great economic influence.

The treatment of the owners of the land, the close, intimate relationship with the Gnassingbé power son and father, show that HeidelbergCement supports the dictatorship in Togo, which has been existent for 50 years.

When actually, the role of an investor in a host country should be to develop it through the construction of roads, schools, training centers, housing, hospitals, the creation of manpower, entrepreneurship, the improvement of social and economic conditions, and the creation of jobs.

What does Heidelbergcement actually represent through its subsidiary Scantogo since its existence in Togo?

Apart from its political aspect with the dictatorial, bloodthirsty, mafia, corrupt Togolese regime, this society still presented its dangerousness under the aspect of nature and environment. HeidelbergCement, through

its subsidiary Scantogo, has invested \$250 million in a new clinker plant in Tabligbo and a cement grinding plant in Dapaong. It is not the only company in the mining sector in Togo.

Through activities of extraction of limestone, phosphates, and others, the losers are the people, animals, and nature.

- For people, it is the right to work in factories is often abused (low wages, limited duration employment contracts, the majority of workers come from elsewhere, workers' unions under the dependence and influence of these companies); In other words, chronic illnesses, tragic deaths, poverty, total misery, etc.

Another result is the rural exodus (massive displacement of the population from these localities to other areas unknown, it is the beginning of misery, suffering, prostitution, immigration).

- For animals, it is the loss of certain breeds of animals or their total disappearance, fish and other animals are contaminated by toxic products, their consumption becomes dangerous for humans, the loss of coastal fishing, the disappearance of livestock.

- For nature, it is the marine ecosystem that is being destroyed, air pollution, the degradation of streets and roads, more drinking water, the hospital center of Tabligbo degraded, not a single machine to examine sick people, no vocational training centers, dilapidated schools, the disappearance of agriculture.

What do the realities prove today in Tabligbo, Yoto prefecture, the only one in the maritime region whose subsoil contains important mining deposits in operation? It is home to three companies extracting and transforming the clinker into cement.

At the same time, a report of the Court of Auditors reveals misappropriation of 300 million FCFA in 5 years or about 543 thousand dollars. This sum is intended for the administrative reorganization (transforming the administrative circumstance of Tabligbo).

SCANTOGO and WACEM (West Africa Cement) say they are disbursing more than 300 million FCFA or about 543 thousand dollars for the rehabilitation of the hospital in Tabligbo. The rehabilitation work was officially launched on Friday, March 6, 2020, but today we cannot see a single rehabilitation site of the hospital. While in their statement, other development projects and the permanent improvement of the well-being of the population to support the Togolese government are envisaged.

It's corruption, mismanagement, lies etc....

In Sika-Kondji, landowners in these communities are subjected to inhumane treatment. Their farmland is taken without discussions or signed Minute Verbal Agreements (MVAs). There are 321 lots on these lands according to Scantogo's administrators and agents, a figure that these landowners dispute because they do not know where this figure is coming from. There were also plantations on the land. Scantogo feels that it wants to compensate these owners for the number of lots taken and the number of plantations on the lots, but this is a procedure that is in itself corrupt. While these owners of the land have no time to show how Scantogo will be able to compensate them, it starts to compensate some owners with insignificant sums that aren't even enough to survive, whilst others get nothing at all.

Currently, some of the owners of the land in these communities have opened a lawsuit in the Tabligbo Court of Justice.

But this trial does not give hope for a good outcome, because Scantogo has corrupted all the judges who can decide in this lawsuit, and agents that have power, as well as the institutions of justice of the Togolese state. The owners of the land are even threatened to withdraw their complaints, or to stop demonstrating against Scantogo, or else the Togolese government will interfere in the case.

Scantogo refuses to enter into direct contact and discuss the trial.

We demand the respect for climate justice and the end of the exploitation of Togolese minerals. We urge international and national opinions to respond to the demands of the Togolese people, who demand only one: transition, constituent reforms, rebuilding of the Togolese state without the fifty-year-old Gnassingbé regime.