

From: Communications and CSR Departments of the Bolloré Group
To: Eniko Horvath and Gregory Regaignon / Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

**THE BOLLORÉ GROUP RESPONSE
TO THE BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS RESOURCE CENTER**

The Group's family- and heritage-based culture allows it to project its activities in the long term, to diversify them and to invest in innovative projects with full independence. Driven by a strong entrepreneurial spirit and the desire to create a link between people and their environment, the Bolloré Group associates humanism to a results-based culture. This CSR approach is based on the international standard ISO 26000 and is expressed in the 155 countries where the Group operates through its activities: transport and logistics, media and communication, electricity storage solutions.

Besides its three activities, the Bolloré Group manages a set of financial holdings. The company reiterates that it is only a shareholder of the Socfin Group, largely controlled and directed by Belgian family Fabri, owner of oil palm plantations and rubber trees in Africa and Asia. Therefore the Group cannot be held directly responsible for actions or decisions taken by Socfin.

However, the Bolloré Group carries out its duty of vigilance, for instance:

- Since early warnings, the Group's opening will was illustrated in 2012 by its acceptance of mediation with the NGOs Sherpa before the French National Contact Point (NCP) for the OECD, on the Cameroonian plantation Socapalm (subsidiary of Socfin). The Group met many times with Sherpa and the NCP to negotiate an action plan to be implemented by operators of the Socapalm plantation. The first platform for dialogue, a key element of the action plan, was held in January 2016.
- Moreover, the Bolloré Group organized a meeting in October 2014, with representatives of local residents of Socfin plantations (including Shiaka Sama from Sierra Leone and Prak Neth from Cambodia). The representatives were received in Paris where the Group as mediator, raised their demands and then transmitted them for Socfin to follow. The Bolloré Group, active as a shareholder and director of Socfin but not leader, plays a facilitating role in this case.

The Socfin group, created a century ago, says that none of these criticisms is proved true. The Bolloré Group has every reason to believe these answers and maintain its investment, which enables many new jobs and improves the opportunity for local people to eat at the best price while benefiting from social services.

The Bolloré Group recalls that it is regularly noted by agencies on its extra-financial performance and that its rating improves. The company's existing actions and its willingness to make progress should be acknowledged.

As for the question raised by some media about the trial Bastamag, namely "it is still possible to inform on the activities of Bolloré Group?", the Group responds: to inform is a right, to defame is a criminal offense.