



SUMMARY OF CASE

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST BOSANGA COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOLLOWING VILLAGE PROTESTS AGAINST SIFORCO LOGGING COMPANY IN EQUATEUR PROVINCE.

In the early morning of 2nd May 2011, about 60 navy and national police officers were deployed to Bosanga¹, Equateur Province, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was reported to Greenpeace that this joint force, transported in a SIFORCO truck driven by a SIFORCO employee, instigated a wave of violence against the community:

- Several women, including minors, were raped;
- Many people were badly beaten, including a 70-year-old man;
- After being beaten, Mr. Frédéric Moloma Tuka, was left in front of his house, unable to stand because of the injuries received. After the security forces left the village, he was taken to the medical post in Magbokpale, but could not receive treatment because the nurse had also been beaten and arrested. Mr. Moloma Tuka died on the night of 2nd May.
- Houses were searched, and property confiscated and destroyed by members of the joint police and military force, then by the truck driven by the SIFORCO driver;
- A house was burnt down;
- 16 people were arrested, including the community chief as well as the nurse, the individual most able to provide medical assistance to victims;
- The detainees were transported in the SIFORCO truck to Bumba prison. The testimonies collected by Greenpeace reveal that the truck stopped along the way at SIFORCO's logging site at Engengele, where site manager Klaus Hansen received a briefing of the "mission." Several witnesses indicate that police and navy officers received money from SIFORCO.

On 6th May, further to an order issued by the public prosecutor's office at Lisala court, the detainees were released from jail, more than 100 km from their village with no means of subsistence. At no time were they shown any official document related to their arrest.

This "punitive expedition" was mounted after villagers of the Yalisika group, which includes the Bosanga community, protested on 20 April against SIFORCO's failure to meet commitments made in 2005 and revised in 2009 to invest in social infrastructures (schools, medical post, roads).

¹ Yalisika community, territory of Bumba, Mongala district (Equateur Province)

SIFORCO (Société Industrielle et Forestière du Congo SCARL) is a DRC subsidiary of Swiss-based DANZER. SIFORCO currently holds 8 forest titles, validated by the recent legal review, covering a total surface area of more than 2 million hectares.²

SIFORCO was awarded FSC certificates for Chain of Custody and Controlled Wood (SGS-CW_/FM-008062 and SGS-COC-008149) issued by the certification body SGS on 22 September 2010 and 22 October 2010.

² 2,088,570 hectares, according to the official GIS data issued by the Ministry of Environment