

## **Committee Recognition, Compensation**

**&**

## **Memory of the French Nuclear Tests in the Algerian Sahara**

By abbreviation "C.R.I.M.E.S"

# **Appeal**

for the recognition and the repair of the consequences

French nuclear tests in the Algerian Sahara on health and the environment by the compensation for the victims and the rehabilitation and the securing of the sites of tests.

Between February 13, 1960 and February 16, 1966, the Algerian Sahara was the theatre of tests, explosions and nuclear experiments of colonial France (57 stated). Moreover, serious accidents, such as the accident Beryl of the May first 1962 "Tchernobyl-one", took place during all the period of the air, underground tests and of the tests known as complementary. These operations caused injuries with the environment and the health of the civil or military personnel, as well French as recruited locally, and populations close to the sites of tests of Reggane and to In Ekker.

France began its nuclear experiments, in full knowledge of the risks on health and the environment since information on the consequences of the atomic bombardments of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had been published and even translated into French since 1957. France also carried out its first tests in full international moratorium decided by the three nuclear powers in November 1958.

In addition, of serious negligence's were recorded in the management of waste on the sites of tests. Precise information on nature, the radiological activity, the volume and the localization of storages of this waste must be made public by the ministry for French defense as it already did for French Polynesia.

To date, France affirms that the sites of Saharan tests "were dismantled" and "were cleansed" on the radiological level before the departure of the French soldiers on December 31, 1967. Many Algerian visitors and foreigners, who went to the site, in 2007 and 2010, contradict these assertions of France formally. Moreover, the various documentary films carried out these last years on the French

nuclear tests in the Algerian Sahara testify some.

In September 22, 1995, the general meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency asked the States concerned with the nuclear tests, "***to take all their responsibilities so that the sites where they had carried out nuclear tests are supervised scrupulously and that suitable measures are taken so that there are no harmful effects on health, safety and the environment***". It is on the basis of these recommendations of the IAEA that the overall management of the old sites of tests remains to be established by being based on the principle "***pollutant payer***".

The report preliminary of the expertise carried out by the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1999 and published into 2005 confirms the existence of zones contaminated on the level of the three sites of tests to knowing Hammoudia, Tan Afella and Tan Ataram.

Work and the Resolutions of the two International Conferences on the consequences of the nuclear tests in the world organized in Algiers respectively on on 13-14 February 2007 and February 23-24 2010, stressed points for which no information is available such as:

1. Delimitation of the zones contaminated by the four air tests and the forty experiments complementary to Hamoudia (Reggane) and Tan Attaram (In Ekker) and by the thirteen underground explosions to Tan Afella (In Ekker);
2. The destination and the Securing of the old laboratories of the ECA of Reggane-plate and the built blockhouses with Hamoudia (Reggane);
3. The radiological state of the wells and other installations and equipment which was used for the 35 complementary experiments carried out on the site of Hamoudia;
4. The radiological state of the places of the 5 experiments of the operation "Pollen" which dispersed plutonium on the site of Tan Attaram (In Ekker);
5. The cartography and contents of the sites of hiding of the various nuclear waste.

Since 2002, all the French political sensitivities represented to the Senate and the national Assembly deposited at least 18 private bills aiming at obtaining repair for all the victims of the nuclear, military and civil tests, that they are French,

Algerian or Polynesian, or that they live near the old sites of tests of the Sahara and Polynesia.

The French ministry of defense affirms against any obviousness that the 210 French nuclear tests were "clean" and without consequences, neither on the health of the people, and on the environment.

The United States, by the law of 1988, admits that their nuclear experiments made victims adopt the principle of the presumption of bond with the tests for 36 cases of cancers and compensate consequently as well the civil veterans and soldiers as the populations close to their old sites of tests. The Australian government after negotiations with the British government obtained a compensation for compensation for the medical damages caused with the Australian soldiers and civil who had taken part in his nuclear experiments and for the cleaning of the old sites of tests of Australia. This operation of cleaning continued until 2006.

France itself carried out the cleaning of Mururoa and Fangataufa and set up a monitoring system of the contaminated sites and built into 2007 at Papeete a medical centre for the follow-up of the Polynesian victims and finally promulgated into 2010 the law of recognition and compensation for the victims of the French nuclear tests.

In 2008, the French Minister for defense explains the delay taken by France for the recognition and the compensation by "*the specific place for the nuclear power in France* " adding "*We must recognize the victims today, almost all the States did it, and France should not derogate from this rule* ".

Thus, the promulgation of the law of January 05 2010 on the recognition and the compensation for the victims of the French nuclear tests and its decree of implementation, provided for April 2010? Will put an end to the French taboo on the French nuclear tests in the Algerian Sahara and in Polynesia.

Within this framework, the Association of the Veterans of the Nuclear Tests (AVEN), Association Mururoa e Tatou and the committee of support " Truth and justice " note that the consequences of the French tests in Algeria are identified in the law, but consider it regrettable that no coherent measure is considered for the Algerian personnel and the populations concerned and that nothing are proposed for the rehabilitation contaminated sites.

Resulting from different backgrounds - intellectuals, scientists, researchers, doctors, members of Parliament, artists, sportsmen, journalists, victims civil and soldiers (French, Polynesian and Algerian) -, the signatories below decided to

constitute themselves in Committee of support for the Association of February 13, 1960, Reggane, with the Association of the Victims of the French Nuclear Tests in the Algerian Sahara, (AVENFSA) and with the association of the May first 1960, In Amguel (which is in the course of creation). In full agreement with those, we decided to amplify this combat for the recognition and the repair of the consequences of the French nuclear tests in the Algerian Sahara on the environment and health, for the compensation for the victims and the rehabilitation and the securing for the three sites of tests.

We call France, 50 years after the first test, to recognize this situation and to take its responsibilities by implementing the legitimate claims for the Algerian victims for the French nuclear tests at the Algerian Sahara by:

1. The opening of the files of the French nuclear tests in the Sahara Algerian, still classified secret defense and which would have become " incommunicable " since 2008;
2. The creation of a Joint Committee of evaluation and follow-up of the medical and environmental consequences of the French nuclear tests in the Algerian Sahara, working in full transparency;
3. The creation of funds for the compensation and the medical follow-up of the Algerian victims on the one hand, and the rehabilitation and the Securing of the three sites of test in the Sahara and the management of the radioactive waste generated by the aforementioned tests on the other hand.

It is to be recalled that if the nuclear tests belong to the past, their effects are spread out over centuries and even millennia.

Lastly, we support the Association of the Veterans of the Nuclear Tests (AVEN) and with Association Moruroa e Tatou in their combat for a right compensation for the various victims of the French nuclear tests in the Algerian Sahara and in French Polynesia, which will be, at least, with the height of the sacrifices of those which contributed to the glory of France.

To this end, we call citizens to support this appeal and to sign it.

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I express my support for the appeal launched by the Committee " CRIMES " for the recognition, the repair of the consequences of the French nuclear tests in the Algerian Sahara on the environment and the health of the people by the compensation for all the victims, the rehabilitation and the Securing of the various sites of explosions and nuclear experiments used between 1960 and 1966 and the management of the nuclear waste any confused type hidden in the Algerian Sahara.

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Date: 28/05/2010

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hans-Josef Fell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.