

Tjenbé Rèd!



***The Anthony B story
- Tjenbé Rèd proposes
a public debate to Orange Bleue
on the Reggae Compassionate Act
and Anthony B's murder music***

***(Tjenbé Rèd meanwhile is sorry
that a Citizen's Vigilance Collective
had ignored the Reggae Compassionate Act
in using inappropriate methods
to counter the murder music)***

*Paris, Wednesday 15 October 2008
Press Release No. TR08SOC28*

On Saturday the 11th of October, a “*Collectif Vigilance Citoyenne*” (*Citizens' Vigilance Collective - CVC*) stood against the arrival of the homophobic singer Anthony B in Vitry-le-François (France). It had dug out some carefully selected extracts from an interview given by the singer in 2001 to the magazine *Reggae Massive*. The document showed him as having clearly and unrepentantly uttered homophobic comments [1] [2] [3].

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Tjenbé Rèd welcomes this initiative but is sorry about the methods that *CVC* has used in support of its case.

1. *CVC* suggests in its press release of 11th October that “*Anthony B is better known for his homophobia and his calls for the murder of gays than for his qualities as an artist*”. This statement is not only a value judgement, it is also inaccurate. Anthony B is not listed among the eleven artists targeted by the international campaign *Stop Murder Music*, launched in 2004. The Internet site *Murder inna Dancehall* (soulrebels.org/dancehall.htm) set out some 207 titles of *murder music* : only three or four were attributed to Anthony B and only one has been tracked down.

2. Next, *CVC* suggests that Vitry-le-François is the “*Capital of Homophobia*” (including the capital C). Don't you think this is going a bit far? Could you not, for example, suggest that Teheran, famous for hanging homosexuals, could be a more believable “*Capital of Homophobia*”?

3. More seriously, *CVC* shows a lack of common purpose by pronouncing on *murder music* without the least sign of consultation with people who have been active for years on the subject, such as *Jamaica Forum for Lesbians Allsexuals & Gays*, *Black Gay Men's Advisory Group*, *OutRage!*, the French *Fédération française des Centres LGBT* (lesbians, gays, bi- and trans-sexuals) or *Tjenbé Rèd*. Such a consultation would, moreover, have allowed *CVC* to cite the *Reggae Compassionate Act (RCA)*. This ethical document is the product of the Black and West Indian communities, and

its aim is to fight against *murder music*, by involving these communities, not by excluding them.

4. Similarly, you could be surprised at the fact that they not only make the document public, but they also blame Orange Bleue for not knowing anything about it. The interview given by Anthony B to the magazine *Reggae Massive* in 2001 has been mouldering in the drawers for seven years. It is not even indexed in the Google search engine. How could the Vitry concert hall know about it? Would it not have been simpler, and more constructive, showing more respect in the first instance, if they had brought the document's existence to the notice of the hall? Later, if things did not work out - if the hall did not draw the desired conclusions - they could have expressed their regret. This is what French law calls the "*principe du contradictoire*" (full and fair exchange of informations going on the attack). The method chosen does not seem to have involved researching the reasons for the issue. "*Hit first, ask questions later*" is not a method which fits in with our standards. We need a firm commitment to collaborative action.

5. Finally, we are surprised at the anonymity of the whole affair. *CVC* declines to respond to the press and there is no organisation with a similar name we can find in Vitry-le-François.

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For these reasons, *Tjenbé Rèd* suggests that the initiative carried out by *CVC* to fight against *murder music* is inappropriate; asks *Mediacom* once again to make certain that the *Ragga* artists it regularly invites to France are signatories to the *RCA*; asks all those involved in the fight against murder music once again to base all their initiatives on the *RCA*; will try to get *Orange Bleue*, the hall in Vitry, to organise with minimal delay, a public debate on the *RCA* and *murder music*. It will be to its credit, even if it is not its main role, to be seen to supporting education and dialogue.

In fact, even though the homophobic, sexist and racist aspects of *Ragga* music ought to be denounced, there is a social dimension and it forms part of people's identities. These should not be ignored. The fans of *Ragga* music in France are not, in fact, essentially homophobes, but are black people, and people of colour, whose origins lie in Martinique and Guadeloupe. In this music and in these singers they find a living link with the islands they came from. Other fans, of European origin, wish to share in the values of toleration and antiracism advanced by their idols during their European tours. If you deprive these fans of their concerts without suggesting anything in exchange, as a discussion, then you are quite frankly not being very democratic, not very educative. You would encourage the development of a sort of homophobic resentment. That would be to miss the target.

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[1A] 14 octobre 2008 - *Anthony B, en tournée en France, doit signer le Reggae Compassionate Act ! (Tjenbé Rèd demande à Mediacom et aux associations LGBT de respecter cette charte éthique issue des communautés noires et antillaises)* - Communiqué de presse n°TR08SOC27
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20081014-00.html>

[1B] 13 octobre 2008 - *Anthony B en concert à Metz : Couleurs Gaies et Tjenbé Rèd manifestent leur vigilance (Les associations LGBT appellent le mouvement ragga au dialogue sur la base du Reggae Compassionate Act signé par Capleton)* - Communiqué de presse n°TR08SOC26
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20081013-00.html>

[2A] *Vitry le François - Capitale de l'homophobie ?* - Communiqué publié le 11 octobre 2008 par le *Collectif Vigilance Citoyenne*
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20081011-89.pdf>

[2B] *Reggae Massive*, août-septembre 2001, pages 1, 36 et 37 (entretien tronqué)
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2001/20010801-99.pdf>

[3A] *Homophobie : le concert d'Anthony B annulé*, article paru le 12 octobre 2008 dans *l'Union*, journal de la Marne
http://www.lunion.presse.fr/index.php/cms/13/article/191247/Vitry_le_Francois__Homophobie__le_concert__d_Anthony_B_annule
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20081012-89.pdf>
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20081012-89.jpg>

[3B] *Anthony B : l'annulation du concert fait réagir*, article paru le 15 octobre 2008 dans *l'Union*, journal de la Marne
http://www.lunion.presse.fr/index.php/cms/13/article/192515/Anthony_B__l_annulation_du_concert_fait_reagir
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20081015-99.pdf>
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20081015-99.jpg>

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Association loi 1901 fondée le 1er mai 2007, déclarée le 24 mai 2007, Journal officiel du 16 juin 2007
CCP Paris 5355746U | IBAN FR94 2004 1000 0153 5574 6U02 070 | BIC PSSTFRPPPAR |
SIRET 500 965 678 00013 | NAF/APE 913E
Membre du Comité consultatif des associations ultramarines
près la Délégation interministérielle pour l'égalité des chances des Français d'outre-mer
Membre de l'UNOM | Union nationale de l'outre-mer français
Membre du RAAC-sida | Réseau des associations africaines et caribéennes agissant en France dans la lutte contre le sida
Membre du CRAN | Conseil représentatif des associations noires en France
Membre associé, Observateur de la Fédération française des Centres LGBT
Membre du collectif UCIJ | Uni(e)s contre l'immigration jetable
Signataire de la Charte francilienne des intervenants en éducation pour la santé
et membre du Schéma régional d'éducation pour la santé en Île-de-France
Signataire de la Charte de la Coordination française pour le droit d'asile
Signataire de l'Appel pour un moratoire universel sur la peine de mort
lancé le 6 août 2007 par la Coalition mondiale contre la peine de mort
Signataire du pacte interassociatif Ni Pauvre, Ni Soumis du 4 février 2008
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