



RIGHT OF REPLY TO «MIDI LIBRE» FOLLOWING ITS ARTICLE OF 18 AUGUST 2010 ON SIZZLA AND THE «GAY LOBBIES»

Release n°TR10INT11D
Paris, Monday 23 August 2010

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Sirs,

In accordance with Article 13 of the French Law of 29 July 1881 on press freedom, we are asking you to publish the attached right of reply without delay.

In fact, in an article dated 18 August 2010, headed «*Gay Lobby Has Concert Cancelled*» [1], you maintain the following statements in particular. «*In their crusade against Jamaican artists who have performed homophobic lyrics, the gay lobby has just won a new victory. The Sizzla concert, which was scheduled for Saturday evening at the Palavas arena, has just been cancelled by the organisers. While the artist did sing «kill the queers, my big gun gonna shoot» in 2001, he subsequently committed himself in 2007, in writing, like other artists of the Caribbean island it had its eyes on, never again to sing this type of sulphurous and totally unacceptable lyric during their tours. And, as far as we know, Sizzla has never been found in breach of this. Gay and Lesbian groups had already had one of his concerts cancelled last November in Victoire 2 concert hall, supposing - without real proof - that he was not sticking to his commitments. The Tjenbé Rèd association, which was not contactable yesterday, had been calling for pressure on the local authority of Palavas not to host the singer. At the same time, it has drawn up a blacklist of about a dozen singers, against whom it has done all it can to get their gigs cancelled.*»

It seems to us we need to pick up on some inexactitudes.

1. The aim of the international Stop Murder Music (SMM) campaign, for which Tjenbé Rèd is a French coordinator, is not to cancel concerts, but to lead certain singers of Reggae Dancehall to cease their calls for murder and to sign and respect the Reggae Compassionate Act (RCA). [2]
2. There is no proof that the Sizzla concert scheduled for 21 August had been cancelled because of the press release published on the 5th by several human rights organisations. [3] Had the ticket sales of this concert gone as successfully as expected? Already in 2008, Sizzla's people had accused the

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SMM campaign of being responsible for the cancellation of several concerts, when in fact the singer had been refused entry at the frontier for the somewhat more trite reason that he had a problem with his visa! [4] [5]

3. Sizzla's violations of the RCA are comprehensively documented, contrary to what you have indicated, surprisingly rehashing some propaganda from those concerned. [6]

Sincerely,

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against all forms of homophobia, racism and AIDS)
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[1] 18 août 2010 - Midi libre - *Les lobbies gays font annuler le concert*
<http://www.midilibre.com/articles/2010/08/18/MONTELLIER-Les-lobbies-gays-font-annuler-le-concert-1349680.php5>
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2010/20100818-99.pdf>

[2] 31 décembre 2004 - OutRage! - *Stop Murder Music: Dancehall Dossier*
<http://www.petertatchell.net/popmusic/Dancehall-Dossier-FINAL.pdf> [en]
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2004/20041231-99.pdf> [en]

[3C] 21 août 2010 - *Campagne Stop Murder Music - Sizzla à Montpellier : «Butte les pédés, mon flingue va tirer» ?!* - Communiqué de presse n°TR10INT11C
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2010/20100821-00.pdf>

[3B] 19 August 2010 - *Stop Murder Music Campaign: Concert by homophobic singer Sizzla cancelled* - Joint press release from Tjenbé Rèd, OutRage! and Couleurs gaies (Metz LGBT Centre) - Press release No. TR10INT11B
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2010/20100819-09.pdf> [en]
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2010/20100819-00.pdf> [fr]

[3A] 5 August 2010 - *Stop Murder Music Campain - Sizzla in France: «Shoot queers»?! (Signatories send out an alert to human rights organisations in Languedoc-Roussillon)* - Joint press release from OutRage! (London), Tjenbé Rèd, Girofard (Bordeaux LGBT Centre), Couleurs gaies (Metz LGBT Centre) - Press release No. TR10INT11
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2010/20100805-09.pdf> [en]
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2010/20100805-00.pdf> [fr]

[4M] 4 juin 2008 - *Tjenbé Rèd propose le dialogue aux amateurs de dancehall (RDV samedi 7 juin à 16 heures, Paris)* - Communiqué de presse n°TR08POL11
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080604-00.html>

[4L] 1er juin 2008 - *Droit de réponse aux propos tenus par Monsieur Collin dans la lettre quotidienne du magazine Têtu le 29 mai 2008* - Communication n°TR08POL10C
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080601-00.html>

[4K] 31 mai 2008 - *Suite aux propos tenus par Benoît Collin, directeur de publication du site Internet ReggaeFrance.com, dans la lettre quotidienne du magazine Têtu le 29 mai 2008* - Communication n°TR08POL10B
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080531-00.html>

[4J] 29 mai 2008 - *Interdit d'espace Schengen, Sizzla laisserait dire qu'il aurait «décidé» d'annuler sa tournée* - Communiqué de presse n°TR08POL10A
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080529-10.html>

[4I] 29 mai 2008 - *Sizzla décide d'annuler la suite de sa tournée en France (Tjenbé Rèd venait pourtant de trouver un terrain d'entente avec lui)* - Communiqué de presse n°TR08POL10
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080529-00.html>

[4H] 28 mai 2008 - *Sizzla réaffirmerait son intention de respecter le Reggae Compassionate Act (Le principal obstacle à son retour en France serait ainsi levé)* - Communiqué de presse n°TR08POL09
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080528-00.html>

[4G] 18 mai 2008 - *Deux autres concerts du chanteur raciste et homophobe Sizzla sont annulés (La mobilisation doit s'intensifier à Ramonville et à Montpellier où la FNAC continue à tirer profit de son commerce de mort)* - Communiqué de presse n°TR08POL08
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080518-00.html>

[4F] 17 mai 2008 - *Lettre à Rama Yade, secrétaire d'État chargée des Affaires étrangères et des Droits de l'Homme, au sujet de la tournée du chanteur Sizzla* - Communication n°TR08POL07
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080517-00.html>

[4E] 16 mai 2008 - *Les concerts de Sizzla à Mulhouse et Villeurbanne sont annulés mais ce chanteur raciste et homophobe reste attendu aux Pays-Bas, en Allemagne et en France malgré une interdiction d'entrer dans l'espace Schengen (Tjenbé Rèd et la LSVD, deux associations européennes de défense des droits humains, lancent un appel à mobilisation autour des valeurs européennes)* - Communiqué de presse n°TR08POL06
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080516-00.html>

[4D] 14 mai 2008 - *Sizzla entame sa tournée à Montreuil : alors que la Journée mondiale contre l'homophobie arrive, cette tournée sera l'occasion de contrer l'homophobie sur le terrain* - Communiqué de presse n°TR08POL05
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080514-00.html>

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[4C] 13 May 2008 - *Open letter to the mayors and those in charge of the concert halls to be visited by Sizzla during his French Tour* - Press release No. TR08POL04B
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080513-05.pdf> [en]
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080513-01.pdf> [fr]
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080513-01.html> [fr]

[4B] 13 mai 2008 - *Scandale Sizzla : seize organisations écrivent aux maires et aux responsables de salles (Par ailleurs, Tjenbé Rèd appelle à un rassemblement pacifique ce mercredi soir à Montreuil et demande l'interdiction de la tournée pour trouble à l'ordre public)* - Communiqué de presse n°TR08POL04A
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080513-00.html>

[4A] 9 mai 2008 - *Alerte homophobie ! Buju Banton et Sizzla, deux chanteurs homophobes, en tournée en France ! (Sizzla, le «butteur de pédés», est à Montreuil ce mercredi 14 mai)* - Communiqué de presse n°TR08POL03
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080509-00.html>

[5C] 30 juin 2005 - *Inter-LGBT - Annulation du Garance Reggae Festival - Les organisateurs doivent en assumer la responsabilité*
http://www.inter-lgbt.org/spip.php?article453&var_recherche=garance
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2005/20050630-89.pdf>

[5B] 15 juin 2005 - *Sizzla se «réserve le droit de dire ce qu'il ressent» : les associations LGBT maintiennent leur demande d'annulation de ses concerts (Dans une déclaration sibylline, le chanteur de reggae nie le caractère homophobe de ses chansons et s'abstient de condamner les violences homophobes et transphobes)* - Communiqué de presse n°ANA2005/12
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/ana/2005/20050615-00.html>

[5A] 9 juin 2005 - *Sizzla en France : «Pan ! Pan ! Les pédés doivent être butés» ? (La Fédération des CGL demande l'annulation de cinq concerts de Sizzla, chanteur de reggae violemment homophobe. Elle exige à tout le moins qu'il reprenne à son compte la déclaration écrite par Capleton le 7 juin)* - Communiqué de presse n°ANA2005/10
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/ana/2005/20050609-00.html>

[6] List of RCA violations by Sizzla in Europe and Jamaica

Sizzla Kalonji (the stage name of Miguel Collins) has repeatedly violated the Reggae Compassionate Act (RCA) which he is said to have signed on 15 April 2007, but which he denies.

A) On 11 May 2007, the VP Records label distributed via its website a compilation called «*Bill Back*», produced by E.21st Production, including an extremely violent song by Sizzla, «*Head Out*».
http://www.soulrebels.org/dancehall/d_history_2007.htm
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20081218-59.pdf>

[EXTRACT FROM INTERNET SITE MURDER INNA DANCEHALL: *Head Out (2006)* – Sizzla/ Album: *Bill Back - Various Artists (May 11, 2007) (label: E.21st Production)/ Single: Head Out (June 7, 2006) (label: TJ) (riddim: Bill Back)/ Lyrics: Not found/ Note: Due it's extreme violence, to my knowledge, this song was never issued on any albums, it was only available on singles and DJ compilations. The Chorus goes "Head Out, the battyboy brain's gonna go spread out". A year later, the song is included on a compilation, which is distributed on the VP Records website, a company that said they would no longer issue that type of material. An hypocritical way of doing their job, distributing the material from another label (maybe even own by VP!). The song was used in the video montage posted on JumpCut, where you can see a mob beating up an homosexual in Falmouth, Jamaica (April 27, 2007). Hear the song playing in the background of the video Mob beating up Jamaican gay man/ Note: There is a mature conversation about this song and homophobia in dancehall on the Blood And Fire forum.]
http://www.soulrebels.org/dancehall/e_songs_more.htm
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVq3TRYAXiw>
<http://www.bloodandfire.co.uk/db/viewtopic.php?t=25330&postdays=0&postorder=asc&start=0>*

B) On 13 June 2007 in Berlin (Germany), 17 or 18 June 2007 in Paris (France), 20 June 2007 in Milan (Italy), 22 June 2007 at Bari-Modugno (Italy), 30 June 2007 in Zurich (Switzerland) and 3 July 2007 at Bordeaux (France), Sizzla performed his «*Nah Apologize*» piece, which he himself calls «*an anthem*». Less than two months after his supposed signature on the RCA, he thus proved he had no intention of respecting this signature. When it came to the point of singing the refrain, he extended the microphone towards the crowd, slyly avoiding pronouncing the term «*battyman*» (bugger) himself, letting the crowd sing it for him.
http://www.soulrebels.org/dancehall/d_history_2007.htm
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20081218-59.pdf>

18 June 2007 - Video of the performance of *Nah Apologize* in Paris
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2b7um_sizzla-paris-nah-apologize-to-no-ba_music
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2007/20070618-89.pdf>

23 June 2007 - Sizzla Kalonji 22 June in Bari
<http://www.soundsystem.it/vai.asp?articleID=131>
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2007/20070622-99.pdf>

3 July 2007 - Video of the performance of *Nah Apologize* at Bordeaux
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2h3nf_sizzla-bordeaux-3-07-07_music
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2007/20070703-99.pdf>

Lyrics of *Nah Apologize*:
http://www.soulrebels.org/dancehall/u_lyrics_nah4.htm
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2007/20070613-69.pdf>

C) On 7 July 2007 at Cologne (Germany) Sizzla came out with homophobic remarks at a press conference at the end of the Summerjam Festival: *«If you found a family, you give respect to your mother. If you go to other men, you draw her reputation into the dirt... A man must decide whether he wants to be a piece of dirt or a proud man - it's as simple as that.»*

http://www.queer.de/news_detail.php?article_id=8467

<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080320-99.pdf>

D) On 25 December 2007, along with Capleton, Sizzla violated the RCA by performing, among others, *To The Point*, during a GT Taylor Christmas Extravaganza in Jamaica:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fG2oz7ac>

<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2007/20071225-89.pdf>

<http://www.stopmurdermusic.ch/reitschule/stopmurdermusic/Texte/CapletonbreaksRCA-Video.pdf>

<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20081104-89.pdf>

Lyrics of *To The Point*:

http://www.soulrebels.org/dancehall/u_lyrics_to_the.htm

<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2007/20070617-99.pdf>

E) On 31 March 2008, the German LSVD association reported this evidence of an activist in a Jamaican human rights organisation, according to which Sizzla has continued to perform his Murder Music in Jamaica. *«Since signing the RCA Sizzla has performed the songs at local concerts. What he does is that he does not say the homophobic content but puts the mike to the audience who then shout it out... I do believe that it adds up to the same thing.»*

http://www.lsvd.de/fileadmin/pics/Dokumente/Homosexualitaet/Sizzla_FactSheet.pdf

<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2008/20080331-99.pdf>

F) On 26 February 2010, in Zimbabwe, denied having signed the RCA. The Sunday Mail - *«I understand you were made to sign some documents that forbid you from singing anti-gay songs when you are in Europe. What is your position on gay relationships?»* Sizzla - *«The preachings and teachings of the Most High say that it is not right for a man to be with another man or a woman with another woman. All of us wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the union of a man and woman. Family is a basic unit in society./ I support the royal family set-up of a king and a queen./ I did not sign any papers, it is just an agreement I have with certain promoters - it is their system. I cannot stop singing those songs because there is a message in those songs which people should hear.»*

<http://www1.sundaymail.co.zw/inside.aspx?sectid=4928&cat=3>

<http://i-reggae.blogspot.com/2010/02/after-10-years-king-sizzla-finally-made.html>

<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2010/20100227-89.pdf>

G) On 1 April 2010 in South Africa, Sizzla declared: Mail & Guardian (0'58): *“... What do you think about South Africa's Constitution [which protects LGBT people's rights]? In your lyrics sometimes you speak about homosexuality, and... you don't seem to be a big fan of it, and some people have actually called you homophobic.”* - Sizzla (1'16): *“Well I speak the truth and it will cost what it will. Here is the right and the wrong and [some people will] continue to do the wrong still. Constitution is for the leadership of the people and I do believe the people*

should be led in the ways of the Most-High, the principles of the Most-High, and we as African people, Black people, we are spiritual people. We are of the Bible. And there is principles of the Bible that we do abide by. So... if the Constitution in South Africa gives authority for homosexuals and lesbians... Well, it is from those who are ruling but I think it will be way aware to step away from the principles of the Most-High and leading the people because we see homosexuals and lesbians as corruption. So... I'm not criticize but just speak the truth... I'm not with homosexuals and lesbians. I think it is really corrupted and it's corrupting our youth after day... and it's... stepping from the part... we... of life... of the right justice..."
<http://www.mg.co.za/multimedia/2010-03-31-rhetorical-rasta>
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2010/20100401-89.pdf>

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English translation of this French original text. In the event of any differences between the English translation and the French original, the French text shall prevail. Translated by T. E.

23 août 2010 - *Droit de réponse au Midi libre suite à son article du 18 août 2010 sur Sizzla et les «lobbies gays»* - Communication n°TR10INT11D
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2010/20100823-00.pdf> [fr]
<http://www.tjenbered.fr/2010/20100823-09.pdf> [en]
<http://www.heterhomo.org/Concert-de-Sizzla-Tjenbe-Red> [fr]
<http://www.pinkphenix.com/> [fr]

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