

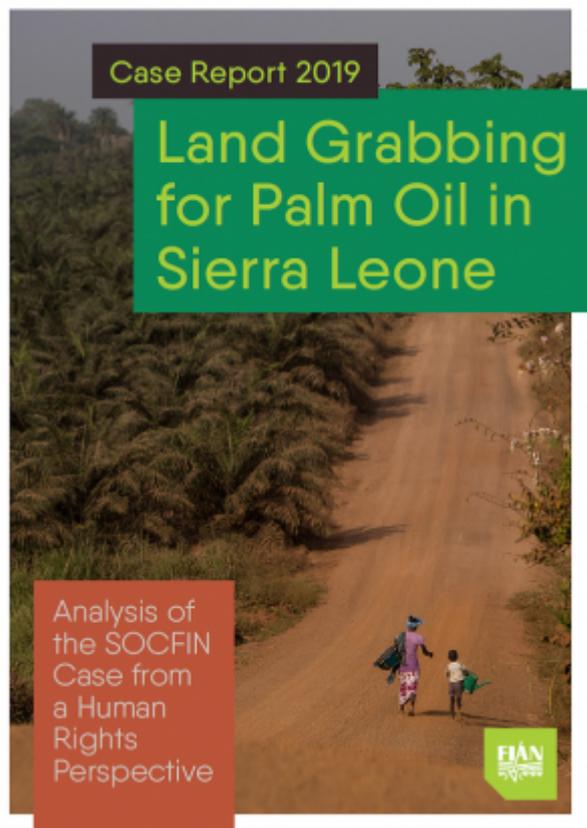
Rapport de cas

# Land Grabbing for Palm Oil in Sierra Leone

Analysis of the SOCFIN Case from a Human Rights Perspective

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FIAN Belgium publishes a new report "*Land Grabbing for Palm Oil in Sierra Leone : Analysis of the SOCFIN Case from a Human Rights Perspective*".



## Abstract

Since the arrival of multinational agribusiness company SOCFIN in 2011 as part of a large-scale investment in palm oil in the Southern Province of Sierra Leone, social conflict has raged in the Malen Chiefdom. SOCFIN is controlled by a Belgian businessman (Hubert Fabri) and the French group Bolloré, which has developed a business empire in many parts of Africa.

This report found that affected communities who have lost access to and control over their land have been exposed to serious human rights violations and abuses since 2011. Several issues emerged, spanning from the rights to land, food, water and a healthy environment, to workers' rights, women's rights, the rights of the elderly and the right to education. Added to this are serious violations and abuses of civil and political rights, including the rights to peaceful assembly and association, physical integrity and clear cases of criminalization of human rights defenders. The report also points to serious allegations of corruption, lack of transparency and non-implementation of corporate social responsibility promises by SOCFIN.

The report paints a grim picture of a profound, multi-faceted decline in the enjoyment of rights by local communities as a direct result of the shift in control over land in Malen, and the subsequent development of SOCFIN's activities in the Chiefdom.

The report is based on three fact-finding missions carried out by FIAN Belgium in collaboration with local

and national organizations, in 2012, 2016 and 2018. It analyses the land conflict in Malen Chiefdom from a human rights perspective, exploring the extent to which human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled, and the extent to which states and non-state parties have upheld obligations arising from international human rights instruments. It also draws on existing reports and publications from international human rights experts, local and international NGOs, academics and journalists.

**Download the Report here :**



**Download the Executive Summary of the Report here :**



More background documents on the case [here](#).

**Read the International Press Release (21 February 2019) - *Stop land grabbing by SOCFIN in Sierra Leone ! Stop the criminalisation of land rights defenders !*** [here](#)