

SOCIETY : II Plateaux Sideci (Cocody) Abidjan.

August 10, 2007

## Three people are dead already due to electromagnetic pollution

*Electromagnetic radiation from microwave antennas, sited by a telecom company is the cause of a serious health effects to "Two Plateaux Sideci" residents. Three people are already dead and there are many other cases of disease.*

It's a real tragedy for II Plateaux Sideci residents. And this is shown total indifference by the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire, even though they have been made aware of the situation. As a matter of fact, since January 2006 a telecom company has installed three microwave antennas WiMax in this residential area. The antennas permanently radiate the houses and their occupants. The antennas, which are fixed on a building that houses a Health Space pharmacy (Space santé) permanently emit microwave radiation that have had disastrous consequences for the health of the residents. **Three people are already dead, with one of them recorded as being a child. But the damages don't stop there. Ever since the company's installation of its deadly system, the residents have been suffering a drop in red and white blood corpuscles and have also suffered cardio vascular problems. Doctors are supervising most of the residents, but some residents are leaving the area. This is the case for an Italian resident, a company director (corporation) after he had to be admitted to a hospital.**

The biggest surprise comes from the authorities who are showing their total lack of interest in the matter, even after having been made aware of the danger, and who and have done nothing to help the population. The resident's syndicate lead by doctor François Ahouassa have made many approaches to all involved. Meetings have been held with the person responsible for the telecom company, who own the deadly installation that has spread death onto the families, and also with the pharmacy owner, whose building carries the antennas. **All of them have denied any danger from the WiMax antennas. However a study undertaken by Abobo Adjamé university experts have proven the opposite.** Many mails have been sent to the Prime Minister, to the Ministries of Security and Justice, to the Public Prosecutor, as well as to the personnel in charge of the police demanding the removal of the antennas. But nothing has been done as yet and the disaster continues. **According to testimonies, the same company was responsible for the equipment emitting the same type of**



The Minister for the NTIC, Hamed Bakayoko challenged.

**radiation to the inhabitants of the 'rue des jardins' from 2002 to 2005. During that period there were four cancer cases, with one being a fatal breast cancer and another a fatal prostate gland cancer. Some of the victims, still alive today, say they are ready to give evidence in any courthouse, even in an international one.** When they contacted the law society they were advised to take the case before the Justice system. This was done by the Mutuelle (mutual) but they are still waiting for justice to be done. Meanwhile the resident's nightmare continues. The Mutual is demanding to have the antennas removed straightaway and to have the sick people given care, because the microwave radiation which is odourless, soundless and invisible is more dangerous than toxic waste. If there keeps on being no response from the responsible instances, the residents inform that they will organise a sitting demonstration very soon in order to be listened to. **The files of ten sick people have already been collected, and the number is growing day by day.**

Alexis TANNOH.