

INSURRECTION IN KANAKY



may - june 2024

These collected texts have been compiled from multiple sources which have translated articles initially written in French, mostly coming from Sans nom. Not all of the French texts have been translated yet (as of making this compilation).

Anti-Colonial Uprising in Kanaky

15 May / [abolitionmedia](https://abolitionmedia.com)

Monday night saw the most significant anti-colonial uprising erupt in Kanaky since the 1980s. The island, which was named “New Caledonia” by the British colonizer James Cook, has been occupied by France since the 19th century.

The indigenous Kanak uprising began in opposition to French president Emmanuel Macron’s attempt to stifle anti-colonial developments by imposing a constitutional change to allow voters from mainland France to vote in a referendum that could determine Kanaky’s independence from France.

The uprising occurred the day before France’s National Assembly was to vote on the issue, and just after Macron had proposed new talks in Paris.

Burning of buildings, roadblocks

It included the burning of buildings and businesses, roadblocks preventing movement in and out of the capital, and the closure of airports and ports in some of the islands. Police were targeted with gunfire and stoning, resulting in 35 injured police.

As of yesterday, Tuesday May 14, a curfew had been imposed. France, which already had 700 colonial occupation police active in New Caledonia, has sent reinforcements to attempt to maintain its control over the colonized Kanak people in revolt.

The Mayor of Noumea, Sonia Lagarde, described the situation as “extremely well organised guerrilla warfare” involving “well-trained young people” and suggested “a sort of civil war” was approaching.

For indigenous Kanaks, Macron’s positioning is unconscionable.

Anti-colonial organisations have all strongly opposed Macron’s imposing constitutional change to widen voter eligibility unilaterally from Paris.

In the face of Macron’s attempt to maintain a colonial stranglehold on Kanaky’s natural resources (in particular nickel mining), the dignified Kanak people have renewed the struggle for their freedom from French colonization.

Colonial Interests and Equipment Up in Smoke as Uprising Continues in Kanaky

22 May / [abolitionmedia](https://abolitionmedia.com) (2024/05/21 from sansnom)

On Tuesday 21 May, one of the armed wings of the colonial justice system, and more specifically the public prosecutor Yves Dupas, gave a provisional assessment of the destruction carried out by the (young) insurgent Kanak since 13 May in Kanaky: “Significant damage, particularly by fire, has been observed in the city of Nouméa and neighbouring municipalities concerning, on the one hand, public buildings or facilities, and on the other hand, economic structures”. Regarding the said “economic structures”, the prosecutor said that “about 400 establishments of the types of shops, hypermarkets, companies” were destroyed or damaged.

Which - to get an idea - brings us back to the assessment made by the president of the CCI (Chamber of Commerce and Industry) of New Caledonia, David Guyenne, on May 21: instead of the 200 million euros of damage announced several days ago for the first 150 companies “looted and burned”, now “we are estimating a billion euros” of damage, he updated himself while gnashing his teeth on a public service radio.

Below is a small overview of some colonial interests and equipment that went up in smoke.

The Ducos industrial zone in flames (Nouméa)

May 20, 2024. Porsche dealership set on fire in the Magenta district (Nouméa)

May 20, 2024. Carrefour supermarket set on fire in Dumbéa

May 20, 2024. “Normandy” industrial zone in Nouméa

May 20, 2024. Mitsubishi dealer in the industrial zone of Ducos (Nouméa)

May 17, 2024. McDonald’s in smoke in the Boulari district (Mont-Doré)

May 14, 2024. Renault dealer set on fire (Nouméa)

Yamaha dealer set on fire in the Montagne Coupée district (Nouméa)



The Kanak insurrection and the nickel industry

23 june / [Act for freedom now!](#) / (2024/06/08 from [sansnom](#))

Despite the efforts of the French colonial authorities, who day after day backed with numerous press releases are announcing a return to normal, the situation in New-Caledonia is far from being settled four weeks after the outbreak of the uprising of a part of the Kanak youth. And some signs are unmistakable, such as the continuation of the curfew (18h-6h) at least until June 17, the requisition of petrol stations for the exclusive use of cops and military that has just been lifted on June 8th, or the fact that the international airport of La Tontouta remains closed «until further notice». Only the airfield of Magenta has been open to commercial flights again since June 5th, or internal flights to New Caledonia to Lifou, Ouvéa and Maré, and nearly 500 French tourists are still blocked on the island after three weeks. As for the North of New Caledonia, it is the army that takes charge directly of the supplying (and therefore rationing and priorities) of the stores, managing the containers that arrive at Koné by barge.

At present, despite the pressure of the 3,500 cops and soldiers sent to the scene, some roadblocks in the neighbourhoods of Nouméa or along the 50 km road leading to the airport, are still being re-erected by Kanak insurgents after their dismantling, without omitting to trap them with gas cylinders at times or even prepare some little surprises for the blues: on June 4th in Dumbéa, for example, a gendarme fell down a manhole after walking on branches that had been placed over it to mask the opening. “With a depth of 1m20, concrete re-inforced irons 2 mm in diameter had been positioned vertically at the bottom to create piles. The gendarme was impaled by one leg and a metal stake that had got in between his bullet-proof vest and body vest, which had pierced but without penetration thanks to the Kevlar plate.”

In total, of this archipelago of 270,000 inhabitants, 212 police officers and gendarmes have been injured since May 13, but also a significant number of Kanaks that the authorities officially refuse to account for, but which we know is considerable and sometimes very serious: several insurgents have lost an eye or had facial bones smashed following shots from police flash balls, others have bullet wounds and are in coma.

Gendarmes murderers

Two recent examples: on May 29th in Dumbéa, at around 8pm during the attack on a roadblock by the cops, the latter suffered numerous stonings but

also a rifle shot. The GIGN responds and fires six times “towards” the shooter. An insurgent is seriously injured: «Despite surgery, his prognosis is still serious, the forensic findings indicating the presence of two projectiles, one in the chest and the other in the shoulder».

Then on June 3rd at 4 pm at the Col de la Pirogue, at the level of the dam of the tribe of Saint-Laurent, on the strategic road leading to the international airport, the gendarmes open fire on Kanak insurgents (who according to the cops had shot first at their vehicle) One is shot in the shoulder and another in the head. We learned on Saturday, June 8th that the latter, Lionel Païta, died in hospital, bringing to eight the number of deaths in the territory (five Kanaks including two from Canala, one from Maré, one from Poindimié, one from Païta, a caldoche [of French descent] in Kaala-Gomen who had shot at two gendarmes, one killed by a colleague).

Needless to say that in such a situation, crazy rumours spread re the number of «missing» well beyond the 8 official deaths (see here), while the prisons of Nouméa and Koné are full to the brim and Kanak prisoners are deported to Polynesia and Fresnes (see here), the official balance sheet announces 726 in police custody, 115 referrals to court and 60 warrants of committal since May 13th.

The nickel industry

To put it briefly, New Caledonia has a quarter of the world’s nickel reserves, operated in open-pit mines, to supply three pyrometallurgical processing plants. The first two produce ferronickel, a lower-quality blend that is used for stainless steel, and the third is battery-grade nickel (primarily intended for Tesla since 2021).

The first factory (Koniambo Nickel, KNS), owned by Kanak separatists in the north, has been shut down since February 2024 and the withdrawal of its reference shareholder, the Swiss commodity trading giant Glencore. The activity is now focused solely on maintaining the furnaces (If the furnace in a metallurgical plant is shut down without being supplied with ore or electricity, not only can it be permanently damaged if the shutdown is sudden, it also takes months to restart it).

The second factory, the historic one of the SLN founded in 1880 (Société Le Nickel, owned 56% by the French group Eramet, itself owned 27% by the French State) located in Doniambo, was already in bankruptcy before the insurrection, and kept alive artificially thanks to a State loan of 60 million euros last February. In addition, Eramet also wants to get rid of its

metallurgical activities in New Caledonia, especially since it operates the largest nickel mine in the world, Weda Bay, on the island of Halmahera (Indonesia) in the midst of primary forests, and it has just obtained huge lithium mining concessions in Chile and Argentina. In Kanaky, with all the five mining sites that supplied it blocked for four weeks, while its ore stock has eventually run out, not to mention the riots that took place a few hundred meters from its factory, this is the object of several counter-insurgency operations of the French State.

As for the third plant, referred to as the South one and located in Goro, owned by the Prony Resources consortium, it is also in default of payment and only survives thanks to a loan from the French State of 140 million euros granted in March. Its reference shareholder, the Swiss trader Trafigura, has been wanting to sell its shares for months, and the famous «contract of the century» signed in 2021 with Tesla is already far away. As with the SLN, Prony Resources' activities at the mine and the factory have been halted since the beginning of the uprising, even though its hydro-metallurgical process is different from that of the other two factories in the archipelago.

At the root of this uprising of the Kanak youth, in addition to colonization, racism, humiliation and prison, is also the stake of nickel, including the pyrometallurgical factories that provide all the artificial wealth of the island (90% of the archipelago's exports and 25% of jobs) were already almost bankrupt or on standby before the uprising. This concerns all the three main forces present on the archipelago, with the factory of the North (Kanak), the South (loyalist) or the State (SLN). In ten years, Indonesia has indeed increased from 0 to 55% of the world production of nickel (against currently 5% for New Caledonia) with Chinese capital, which caused prices to collapse by nearly 43% in 2023 alone, thanks to unbeatable labour force and electricity prices.

Faced with this, the State has been trying for months to recover a colony that it does not want to let go at any price, by trying to negotiate with the New Caledonian government (composed of loyalist and separatist parties, and led by the latter) a «Nickel Pact» of €200 million in subsidies on the cost of energy, with the counterpart that the factories would commit to providing as a priority the European market with batteries for electric vehicles; that this local government increase taxes significantly; it authorizes the export of much more raw ore; and it temporarily restores the jurisdiction of the mining code to the State.

In short, this «Nickel Pact» which has seen eight versions since November 2023 and is still not signed, is a project aimed at intensifying nickel extraction for the metropolis, which would transform the Kanaky into a purely mining territory, definitively embedded in a neo-colonial framework. Unlike the famous Noumea agreements of 1998, supposed to buy social peace, and which planned to use the mining rent to promote the development of New Caledonia until its possible independence (hence the three referendums on the latter from 2019 to 2021, the transfer of mines and a factory to the Kanak bourgeoisie, and the creation of a local government).

The «Nickel Pact» is therefore hitting both the Kanak politicians who relied on this resource to base their economic independence (in “The State wants to steal our nickel” mode) both the urbanized Kanak youth who were already denouncing corrupt politicians and who never see anything of all the money spilled on the archipelago, or even tribal kanak collectives that are increasingly seeing the devastation caused by the intensification of extractivism (on river pollution, health or landslides), and are beginning to advocate an independence that would chase away the French State and also the mines.

We therefore understand why the vote in the Senate on April 2nd and then in the Assembly on May 15th of the thaw of the New Caledonian electoral body (blocked since 1998), resulting in the perpetuation numerically of the colonization of the archipelago, could have been the spark of an insurrection that methodically devastated the shops and industries of the island’s capital. Destroying 570 companies and causing more than 1.5 billion euros’ direct damage, according to the latest assessment of the high commissioner (prefect) Louis Le Franc, made public on June 7.

The Kanak politicians lose control and appeal for calm in vain

When the situation exploded on Monday 13th of May on the occasion of the blockade of the greater Noumea, after six months of mobilizations against the thaw of the electoral body (including demonstrations of 3000 people in late November, 5000 on 25 February, 15,000 on 28 March and 60,000 people on 13 April), the Kanak politicians quickly lost control, and not only called for calm, but also condemned the actions of the insurgents.

In the face of groups of mobile, autonomous, Kanak youth, looters and destroyers, it was on behalf of the CCAT (Field Action Coordination Cell) that Christian Tein launched a call for calm on 14th May on the independentist radio, Radio Djido: “I call on all of our young people to step back. To stay where they are, on the side of the road, organized, structured.

The CCAT never called for looting stores,” while also soliciting parents to “not let [the youth] go in every direction.” A line that will not vary, so that on May 15th in a statement, this cell will specify «our fight for free Kanaky will be long and fraught with obstacles, so the CCAT calls on all citizens mobilized on the ground for appeasement and respect for the instructions», and again on May 31st, adding that “the CCAT has never called for violence, looting or harming people... [It] does not condone acts of vandalism. These acts must not tarnish our struggle for the good of all the citizens of Kanaky.” But getting back to May 14th, since that same day Daniel Goa, president of the main independence party of the FLNKS, the Caledonian Union (UC, besides at the origin of the creation of the CCAT in November 2023), also published his statement, in which he called “our youth to remain calm, to show patience and to stop all abuses, all looting that does not honour us. That’s not dignity and freedom,,, The looting orchestrated this night is our dishonour and in no way serves our cause and our struggle, at worst they delay it... That is not the face of a Kanak. We do not fly home, we are worthy. To all the business leaders touched in their flesh, their property, their plans to make the Country live, I bring them our full support, all our compassion and our great disapproval. Work tools must be made safe.”

Also on May 14th, Louis Mapou, a member of the second main independence party of the FLNKS, the Palika (Kanak Liberation Party), and president of the local government of New Caledonia since 2021, also called in a statement for «calm and reason» adding that “all the reasons for discontent, frustration and anger cannot justify hurting or destroying what the country has been able to build over decades and mortgaging the future.”

Finally, let us add that even the traditional Kanak authorities then got involved, in vain, as the customary Senate chaired by Victor Gogny, which issued its solemn statement, in which he enjoined that “it is imperative that the youth show restraint and citizenship, and promote dialogue and cooperation to express their legitimate demands and aspirations.” Quickly joined by the National Council of chiefs (Inaat ne Kanaky, created in 2022), again on May 14th after the first night of insurrection, which came in turn to “call the youth to calm, wisdom and respect for the instructions given by the officials”.

And to conclude, it is directly the FLNKS (Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front) which released on May 15th its own position on the ongoing insurrection, which is at least explicit about its role as co-manager of the colony since the Matignon agreements (1988) then de Noumea (1998): “The FLNKS, committed to the economic and social development of the country, deplores the actions perpetrated against companies and

provides support to the business leaders and employees impacted... It calls for the lifting of barricades to allow free access of the population to products, services and basic needs. This appeal is also addressed to all the political authorities, customary of this country so that each one where he is, contributes to bring back serenity and calm to our populations.”

A request heard by members of the CCAT who due to lack of a plane to be able to return to the country, held a meeting at the CICP of Paris this same May 15th, during which Romuald Pidjot, deputy secretary of the Caledonian Union, specified that “the role of the CCAT will be to try to calm these young people down, but we will need the help of the State,” while Rock Haocas (head of the USTKE union and general coordinator of the Labour Party, the other major component of the CCAT) could only deplore: “Urban warfare is not what we wanted, but young people have reached a stage that we can no longer control. We are in a phase of rupture, and it’s not due to not having warned.”

Sabotage the nickel industry

From the beginning of the insurrection, one could legitimately wonder about the situation of the nickel mines and factories in terms of sabotage (or not). Outside the capital Noumea, dotted with barricades, looting and fires caused by young Kanak insurgents, what was it like «in the bush» and «in the tribe», where half of the Kanak population live? Even if one suspects that the information is hard to filter through, it seems that it was mainly the mining structures of the SLN (or the State) that had been attacked, but also that of Prony Resources (the Southern loyalist factory):

in Nepoui, a village located in the centre of the west coast, an ore tanker arrived in a hurry on June 2, to load 19,000 tonnes of nickel to be brought back to Noumea in order to supply the SLN plant in Doniambo, which had finished its three weeks of stocks, and risked its furnaces being “irreparably damaged”. Only boom, in the middle of the night part of the conveyor was set on fire, involving a hundred meters of the conveyor belt. Result: the loaded ore tanker arrived safely one day late (June 4), knowing that the Doniambo plant now needs to receive such a boat every three to four days in order to operate. Since then, the SLN has sent a second tanker, but this time much further north (near the Tiébaghi mine, at Koumac), hoping that the young Kanaks would be less hostile to him.

in Houailou, a village on the east coast, the Centre de Formation aux Techniques de la Mine et des Carrières (CFTMC) [mining training centre] located on the Poro mine was completely destroyed: “All training tools,

mining equipment, classrooms, driving simulators were ransacked, vandalized and burned.” It trained young people who wanted to work in the mining sector.

In Noumea, as early as 9 May at around 4am, the lookout positioned on the wharf had been calmed down by unknown people, before the moorings of the Prony Express ferry used for transporting employees of the Prony Resources plant were cut. The launch was then set adrift. Then in Goro, located in the south of the island at an hour and a half by car from the capital, it was directly the factory of Prony Resources to be attacked on May 23 and lose two vehicles. Since then it has been guarded day and night by 35 security guards of the private security group Erys, but the industrial and mining complex is still far from being able to restart, and even set off, on June 7, its «Specific Intervention Plan» (PPI), a program to enhance its security against external threats. In this case, “the current disruption has forced us to stop our operations. We are facing an interruption of raw water supply from Lake Yaté but also, since June 4th, we are no longer being supplied with electricity,” the industrial giant said a few days ago, without daring to talk about sabotage...

For an insurrection not to die, it needs, for example, to deepen and overcome its internal contradictions, but also oxygen, a lot of oxygen. To everyone here, within the French colonial metropolis that is in the act of crushing the Kanak insurgents who have not yet put down their hands (or their weapons), to give it the maximum. Out of solidarity, or quite simply out of hatred of one’s own State...

13th May 2024. The shopping centre « Kenu In » goes up in smoke from the first night of the insurrection

15 May 2024. The “Institut de formation des professions sanitaires et sociales” in Nouville (Nouméa), destroyed by fire

May 26, 2024. The “Institut agronomique calédonien” (IAC), which develops the forest and wood sector, completely looted and ransacked in Païta

June 2, 2024. The only CFA (Centre de formation des apprentis) of the archipelago, looted, ransacked and then burned 90% by rioters.

June 2, 2024. Arson of the nickel conveyor at Nepoui, when it was required to urgently load an ore vessel for the Noumea SLN plant

June 7, 2024. The mining machinery of the «Centre de Formation aux Techniques de la Mine et des Carrières» is reduced to ashes in Houailou

7th June 2024. The « Mutuelle du nickel » and the BNP did not escape the incendiaries in Dumbéa

Roadblocks and Sabotage in Kanaky

16 June / [abolitionmedia](https://abolitionmedia.com) / (2024/06/14 from sansnom)

Last weekend, on the occasion of the European elections, new roadblocks were assembled in Nouméa by Kanak insurgents from the night of Saturday to Sunday June 9, strongly disrupting the latter. However, the State had done everything to try to preserve a semblance of normality, even if it means bringing together the 57 usual polling stations of Nouméa in 6 places (and the 296 offices of the 33 municipalities of the territory on 50 sites) or to advance the opening schedule at 7 a.m. Except that in the northern districts of the Grand Nouméa, in Dumbéa sur Mer, Le Pic aux Chèvres, Koutio and Apogoti, the clashes with the cops resumed at dawn, the four Savexpress tracks was blocked, and even the Robert-Abel school (Dumbéa) scheduled to welcome the voters was burnt down on June 5, following the announcement of its electoral assignment. For its part, the youth house in the district of Tuband (Nouméa) burned the day before the big circus, while no vote was able to take place in the blocked town halls of Kouaoua (the one where the nickel serpentine is regularly burned down) and Ouvéa (the island where the soldiers had murdered 19 Kanak in 1988, then where the two leaders of the FLNKS [Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front] had been killed the following year by a pro-independence Kanak opposed to their signing of the Matignon agreements with France).

In the end, the more or less voluntary abstention rate reached 87% in New Caledonia during these European elections. And no one will be surprised that of the 29,000 settlers and mainlanders (of more than 270,000 inhabitants) who went to the polls overprotected by the cops, the macronist candidate came first (28%) for her good and loyal services rendered to the loyalists, followed by candidates of the far right (the RN received 22%, Reconquest 16%) and the right (12%). But what does it matter, since after the dissolution of the National Assembly which followed this poor election, one of the consequences is that the famous reform which had served as a spark for the Kanak insurrection of May 13 will no longer be adopted in time (the constitutional revision was to enter into force on July 1, 2024). A de facto burial, ratified by President Macron, who finally announced on June 12 the “suspension” of this bill (but not its withdrawal, to the chagrin of those supporting independence).

More broadly, the security forces mention a current number of nearly 2,000 Kanak insurgents (out of the 10,000 estimated on May 13) and more than “about fifty roadblocks” regularly put in place after being cleared, sometimes booby-trapped with gas canisters or protected by metal spikes to puncture the wheels of intervention vehicles. Two gendarmerie supply

trucks, a patrol vehicle, as well as a Centaur armored vehicle were put out of action last week by these traps. It should be recalled that of the 90 Centaurs equipped with optronic equipment and a firing turret that are to be deployed on French territory before the end of 2024, about thirty are destined for the overseas colonies: 6 have already been sent urgently by cargo plane to New Caledonia in early June, while 10 others (embarked on a Navy ship) are expected in Nouméa in the coming weeks.

At Mont-Dore

On Thursday, June 13, in the commune of Mont-Dore (located about ten kilometers east of Nouméa), a major operation was deployed at dawn between the tribe of Saint-Louis and La Coulée, mobilizing 200 mobile gendarmes and the GIGN, two helicopters and several armored vehicles to try to clear the roadblocks. Since the beginning of the insurrection, these roadblocks have blocked the road to the south, leading to the Prony nickel plant. And here again, the pigs not only had a run-in with the insurgents all morning, but several armored vehicles also had their tires ripped open by homemade booby-traps. It seems that Soframe - the company in the Alsatian town of Hangenbieten that designs and manufactures vehicles for the French army's special forces and for the gendarmerie (including the Centaure) - had not predicted everything in this area.

In any case, in Mont-Dore, the third most populous commune in New Caledonia (28,000 inhabitants), there is not much left for the gendarmes to "save" after four weeks, since the rioters have already looted and destroyed everything they could, at least to the north of the city: the shops from the Pont-des-Français to Saint-Michel (Darty, four shops in Conception, a dozen in the heart of the city in Boulari, McDonald's, etc.), but also street furniture, public lighting, electricity networks, video surveillance which had just been doubled (26 cameras destroyed out of 30), municipal buildings (town hall, offices, Pont-des-Français library, market, cultural centre, gendarmerie) or the Boulari college, which lost several classrooms and administrative rooms.

Oh yes, in fact there was still the electoral office of the Macronist deputy Nicolas Metzdorf, the one who had carried the famous bill on the "thaw" that had set off the powder keg on May 13, and is once again running for the next legislative elections in the name of the "union" of the Loyalists. Well, his offices in Mont-Dore went up in smoke on the night of June 13, a few hours after the gendarmes stormed the entire area.

To hold the streets of Nouméa, in the face of Kanak insurgents who are sometimes armed, it should also be noted that the gendarmerie has installed fixed firing posts at strategic crossroads. And that the official death toll increased again on June 11, to nine, after the announcement of that of Joseph Poulawa (originally from Ouvéa), shot dead by the GIGN on May 29 and who has since been in a coma. Which gives us the opportunity to put a name to the six Kanak who have lost their lives since the beginning of the insurrection:

- Djibril Salo (19), shot in the back on May 15 by loyalist settlers, on a roadblock in the Tindu district
- Nassaié Doouka (17) and Christian Neregote (36 years old), both shot in the head on May 20 in the Ducos district, by a business manager who suspected them of wanting to steal a vehicle in his warehouse
- Dany Tidjite (48), shot dead by an off-duty cop who was trying to break a roadblock in the Koutio district.
- Joseph Poulawa (34), shot twice in the chest and shoulder on May 28 in Dumbéa by the GIGN, who claims to have fired a “return shot” (six times). His death was announced on June 11.
- Lionel Païta (26 years old), shot in the head on June 3 by a gendarme at the Col de la Pirogue at the Saint-Laurent tribe roadblock, on the strategic road leading to the international airport. His death was announced on June 8.

As of June 13, the official toll of the authorities also amounted to 1139 arrests of rioters over the past month, as well as 177 police officers and 64 gendarmes injured (plus two gendarmes killed).

Destruction, sabotage and blackouts

A new assessment of destruction was released on June 11, this time from an expert, in this case the chairman of the New Caledonia Insurance Committee (Cosoda), Frédéric Jourdain. It currently lists 900 companies and small shops, 200 houses and 600 vehicles burnt down since the start of these four weeks of insurgency. “For Caledonia, it’s unheard of”, even after “climatic events” (the cyclonic season goes from November to April), he announces in an interview on the public television station La 1ère. He also confirms the figure of 1 billion euros in damage, and specifies this good old statistical method which means that insurance now refuses any new contract in Kanaky: “The principle of insurance is the random nature of the occurrence of a disaster. However, currently, there are very strong probabilities for these claims to occur. The instruction of our headquarters is therefore not to subscribe to new cases as long as free movement is not restored.”

To top it all off, we learned today, June 14, that the local government of New Caledonia (co-led by the FLNKS separatists and loyalist parties) has officially been in suspension of payments for several days, “taking into account the tax losses and social contributions”. It will therefore no longer be able to pay benefits or salaries after June (and even less the specific short-time working measures announced following the destruction), and has been in negotiations with the French state for a week to meet the immediate cash flow need, according to Louis Mapou, its president (FLNKS) since 2021.

It is therefore a little easier to understand why the various pro-independence politicians are constantly calling (and without much success) for an end to the fires, looting and especially for the lifting of the blockades, they who co-manage the government of the archipelago and cannot accept the systematic ravages of the economy undertaken by the young Kanak insurgents for several weeks, not to mention the sabotage against the mines and the two nickel factories (the third is dormant). By the way, the flagship of these nickel processing plants, that of Prony Resources, which announced its partial shutdown on June 7 following the sabotage of its critical infrastructure has just provided some details on this subject: it is both deprived of water following “the destruction of the pumping station”, and also power following “shots on a power line, depriving part of the industrial facilities” of electricity.

*June 11, 2024. A settler's house burned down in the Vallée-du-Tir (Nouméa)
13 June 2024, Mont-Dore. The electoral office of the Macronist and loyalist deputy Nicolas Metzdorf goes up in smoke
Mont-Dore, June 13, 2024. A “Centaur” armoured vehicle of the gendarmerie storming the roadblocks loses its tyre*



Uprising Renewed After Deportation of Kanak Activists

29 June / [abolitionmedia](https://abolitionmedia.com) / (2024/06/25 from sansnom)

22,000 kilometres separate Nouméa from Marseille by sea (via the Panama Canal and Gibraltar), and 17,000 kilometres separates Kanaky from Paris by air. This is the distance that seven Kanak activists were forced to travel in chains for a thirty-hour flight before being taken to several mainland prisons, after being rounded up on June 19 by the elite troops of the French state. While the South Pacific archipelago has been gripped since May 13 by a Kanak social insurrection that has largely escaped its political leaders, these seven women and men (and four others) are accused of being at the origin of it through the Field Action Coordination Cell (CCAT).*

As soon as the nocturnal “deportation” by military plane of the members of the CCAT, to a motherland that they reject was known, needless to say that the embers of the Kanak insurrection were rekindled with renewed vigour. Sunday and the following days saw roadblocks (re)erected everywhere, not to mention the numerous attacks on the police or the fires that hit new institutional buildings, shops or villas, including and notably outside Greater Nouméa (i.e. “in the bush”). In addition, in the face of this wave of repression that has hit it hard, the CCAT, which has often been overtaken by the insurgents in recent weeks, launched two new slogans in a press release on 23 June: “the [nickel] mines will remain closed”, and “we promise strong disruptions” during this last week of legislative elections.

New roadblocks and fires

Over the past three days and the intensification of hostilities, we can list in a non-exhaustive way:

- in Dumbéa (greater Nouméa, 35,000 inhabitants), the municipal police station and its two vehicles parked in the courtyard were burned, as were the new offices of the Social Housing Fund (FSH). In addition, one of the police pick-ups that came to confront the rioters had an accident, and quickly found itself surrounded by the insurgents and then set on fire in turn. On Sunday around 3 a.m., the Jack Mainguet school was also set on fire: the flames ravaged part of the canteen, as well as the teachers’ room and the principal’s office. In all, no less than four armored vehicles of the gendarmerie intervened in Dumbéa, including a Centaur.
- In Mont-Dore (greater Nouméa, 27,000 inhabitants), where a lot of shops and other things have already been looted and destroyed in six

weeks and where Europeans now only go to the capital with the help of a small maritime shuttle because of the roadblocks, the gendarmes have again come under fire while trying to extract them.

- In Païta (Greater Nouméa, 25,000 inhabitants), there was a great deal of destruction: the building of the Special Intervention Detachment of the National Gendarmerie was reduced to ashes. The same goes for the Ohlen and Gustin schools (four classrooms, four interclasses, two nap rooms and two motor skills rooms). As for the Louise-Michel college, which for once lives up to its name, it is the teachers' room and a classroom that burned down. Each time, the firefighters were unable to intervene quickly, because the roads and streets were blocked by the insurgents. A boat was also set on fire in Port-Laguerre.
- In Koumac (4000 inhabitants, which means "hard/stubborn heads" in the Pwaxumak language), located in the very north of Grande Terre, it is the town hall that has partially burned down.
- In Fonwhary (municipality of La Foa, 3500 inhabitants on the west coast), a 120-year-old historic colonial house was reduced to ashes.
- In Bourail (on the west coast, 5000 inhabitants), two large docks in the area of the industrial zone of Nandai (belonging to Matériaux Center and Discount) were burned down and two settlers' villas suffered the same fate, culminating in exchanges of fire between one of the latter and "barragists". According to the gendarmes, there are up to 300 Kanak insurgents on the roadblock blocking this bush village, a situation "never seen before". The town is therefore supplied by sea, with the help of the New Caledonian government's scientific vessel L'Amborella.
- In Lifou (Loyalty Islands), insurgents broke into the tarmac of the Wanaham airfield during the night, after cutting a fence. Then they set fire to large tires on the runway, which degraded it and led Air Calédonie to cancel all its flights to the island. And as the ship that serves as a maritime shuttle is being refitted until July 4, Lifou is therefore cut off from the rest of New Caledonia. In addition, on the Wé side, the only ready-to-wear shop on the small island was set on fire on Monday around midnight.
- In Maré (Loyalty Islands), the gendarmerie brigade in Tadine was attacked all night until 4 a.m. (Sunday to Monday), with an attempted intrusion and molotov throws. As for the La Roche college, it has still not reopened, after being partially burned down several days ago.

The proceedings against the CCAT

After their arrest on the morning of June 19, the 11 members of the CCAT spent 72 hours in police custody, then all were presented to two investigating judges at the Nouméa courthouse on Saturday June 22, who in particular indicted them for “criminal conspiracy with a view to preparing a crime” and “participation in a group formed with a view to preparing violence against people or destruction of property” (act committed on 1 November 2023 to June 19) as well as for “complicity in attempted murder at Mont Dore, Nouméa, Dumbéa and Hienghène; organized gang theft with weapon, in Nouméa, Dumbéa, Mont-Dore and Païta; organized gang destruction of the property of others by means dangerous to people” (acts committed from June 12 to 19 during the insurrection). Charges which make them face life imprisonment, for having “defined, prepared, planned, implemented a violent action plan with the aim of destabilizing the territory” according to Yves Dupas, the public prosecutor of Nouméa.

The investigating judges and the prosecutor’s office then presented their requests for deprivation of liberty, then a JLD obviously followed them: of the 11 arrested, 2 were placed under judicial control (including Darewa Dianou, son of Alphonse Dianou, murdered by the military in the Ouvéa cave in 1988); 7 were immediately put on a specially chartered military plane during the night, to be imprisoned as a preventive measure 17,000 kilometers away; and the last 2 (Gilles Jorédié and Joël Tjibaou, son of the historic president of the FLNKS) had asked for a deferred debate to prepare their defense before the JLD. Today, Tuesday, June 25, they were back in front of the judge of freedoms, and like the first seven were incarcerated, but this time in the Camp-Est prison (Nouméa)...

While waiting to know more, here are already the prisons in mainland France where the seven members of the CCAT have been incarcerated, in front of which rallies were also held on Monday, June 24 at 6 p.m., at the call of the MKF (Movement of the Kanak in France): Christian Tein is in Mulhouse-Lutterbach (Haut-Rhin); Brenda Wanabo Ipeze is in Dijon (Côte-d’Or); Guillaume Vama is in Bourges (Cher); Steeve Unë is in Blois (Loir-et-Cher); Yewa Waetheane is in Nevers (Nièvre); Dimitri Qenegei is in Villefranche-sur-Saône (Rhône); Frédérique Muliava is in Riom (Puy-de-Dôme).

The “shock” of a historic measure

The French state’s choice to transfer to the other side of the planet Kanak people who resisted its domination was a reminder not only that New

Caledonia was a colony of settlement (with 21,600 convicts from mainland France who had been “transported” to the site and 3,700 who had been “relegated” there at the end of the 19th century), but also that it has long been a land of political “deportation” in both directions.

4200 communards were sent to the penal colony of New Caledonia after 1871, quickly followed by various revolts against the French colonial power: more than a hundred Algerian Kabyles from 1874, 750 prisoners (political or pirates) rounded up in the penal colony of Poulo Condor in Cochinchina (Viet Nam) in 1891 and fifteen others in 1914 accused of having committed attacks against French commanders in Hanoi, the Comorian rebels in 1891 or the Polynesians opposed to the French annexation in 1897. And in the other direction, when they were not massacred by the thousands, more than 200 Kanak guilty of refusing the colonial order were regularly deported far from their lands between 1855 and 1929, notably to Tahiti, to the penal colony of Vietnam, to the New Hebrides (Vanuatu) and to Obock, on the Somali coast (Djibouti).

Let us also recall that following the adoption by referendum of the Matignon agreements (1988) signed between separatists, loyalists and the French state, which put an end to the Kanak uprising of the 1980s (the “Events”), one of its articles included an amnesty measure. On November 18, 1988, nearly a hundred prisoners were released from jail, including 26 Kanak insurgents incarcerated in the Paris region (as a preventative measure for having taken up arms against the gendarmes and soldiers on the island of Ouvea). It is in this sense that we can understand the shock felt on site, translated by the press release from the Caledonian Union released on June 23 following the transfer of members of the CCAT to mainland prisons: “the deportation of officials and of activists is a habit implemented by France since its takeover in 1853. It is proof that in 2024, this country will resort to practices from another time.” In this case, prison measures of forced exile which have a long history and have not been implemented for over thirty-five years.

As for the CCAT directly, which held a solemn press conference in La Conception (Mont-Dore) on June 25, it is perhaps the word of Jhon-Rock Tindao, president of the customary council of the Drubea-Kapumë area, that sums it up best: “This great inferno is a cry of revolt of more than 10,000 young people who see their dreams of independence collapse with the thaw of the electorate... The sine qua non condition for us to be able to bring about a climate of peace, for there to be a discussion and for all the CCAT relays to be able to go on half-mast momentarily, is the return of Christian

Tein and all the comrades imprisoned in mainland France because they are considered to be arbitrary arrests.”

All things considered, it seems that for a long time to come, the precious nickel so coveted by the French state to power the batteries of its green capitalism, a mineral that the Kanaky abounds in, is not about to arrive safely. This is at least one more good reason to be in solidarity with the insurgents who ravage the economic structures of the archipelago day after day...

* Chronological note on the Kanak parties and the rise of the CCAT until the insurrection of May 13, 2024:

The FLNKS (Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front), created in 1984, now brings together four main parties: the Caledonian Union (UC), the Kanak Liberation Party (Palika), the Oceanian Democratic Rally (RDO) and the Progressive Union in Melanesia (UPM). The latter have co-managed with the loyalists the local New Caledonian government and certain economic interests (including mining) since the Nouméa Accords in 1998, and are often challenged by part of the Kanak population for their corruption or their distance from the objective of independence, particularly by the young urbanized people of Nouméa, or even their gradual integration into the Western-capitalist system by others (especially in tribes).

In **November 2023**, the *Coordination Cell for Field Actions* (CCAT) was created as an initiative of the UC launched at its congress on the Isle of Pines, which was joined by six pro-independence organizations outside the FLNKS: the USTKE (Union syndicale des travailleurs kanak et exploités, created in 1981 and a member of the FLNKS from 1984 to 1989) and CNTP (National Confederation of Pacific Workers, split from the first dating from 2016), the Labour Party (created in 2007, close to the USTKE), the MOI (Movement of Oceanian Independentists, created in 2019 and composed of Wallisians and Futunians living in Kanaky), Dynamique Autochtone and the Dynamik Unitaire Sud (DUS, split from the Palika dating from 2011).

For their part, the three other FLNKS parties had already created a Nationalist and Citizen Committee (CNC) in 2020, again to broaden their base (on the occasion of the 2nd local referendum on independence), which led the CCAT and the CNCs to work together from November 2023 by mobilizing all the Kanak in the tribes and in Nouméa, to prevent the French government from reforming the local electorate, which has been frozen since the Nouméa Accord (1998). By deciding to open the latter to thousands of mainland residents who have arrived in Kanaky since that date,

the State considered itself to have emerged from the period of the Nouméa Accords, which provided for three referendums on self-determination, and respectively gave 43% for independence in 2018, 47% for independence in 2020, and we don't care how much in 2021 since it was boycotted by the Kanak (then in a period of mourning for the dead of covid-19).

Phase 1 of this mobilization against the thaw of the electorate first consisted of organizing peaceful demonstrations, which grew gradually, from 3000 people at the end of November to 15,000 on March 28, until reaching about 60,000 people on April 13 in Nouméa (for 270,000 inhabitants, 41% of whom were Kanaks). Faced with the growing success of the demonstrations, the 42nd Congress of the FLNKS finally decided in March 2024, two months before the start of the insurrection, to open up to all these other pro-independence components, and a working group was set up to modify the Front's charter.

Then came **phase 2** of the mobilizations, called "10 days for Kanaky", in the week before the vote on the thaw in the National Assembly (the one in the Senate had occurred on April 2), which was to be held on May 13 and definitively adopt this bill. There were then more demonstrations during this period, some nickel mines began to be blockaded, and a USTKE strike paralyzed the ports and docks, but also the airport of Noumea. Finally, the so-called "**2.5**" **phase** began on Sunday, May 12, with the aim of setting up "filter barriers" throughout the archipelago, disrupting the economy of the capital Nouméa. Except that from Monday, May 13, a bit like the yellow vest movement where self-organized groups blocked roundabouts during the day and left at night to burn targets that seemed adequate to them, everything accelerated.

In Nouméa and its suburbs, where the urbanized Kanak youth are both disgusted with the independence political parties and suffer more than any other misery, racism and humiliation, the spark of the forceful passage of this famous thaw exploded into a marked social insurrection by all-out fires and looting. On May 16, the number of insurgents was estimated at around 10,000 by the authorities (5,000 in greater Nouméa, i.e. Dumbea, Mont-Dore and Païta/ and 4,000 in the capital). The CCAT, the FLNKS, the customary authorities, the USTKE or the Caledonian Union then denounced the destruction and looting or called for calm, trying to enforce it on the dams, but nothing has done until today, causing 1.5 billion euros of damage by ruining a New Caledonian economy already weakened by the drastic fall in nickel prices. As for the French state, it decreed a state of emergency between May 15 and May 28, signing 33 administrative search orders (OPAs) and 29 house arrests, including 25 against members of the CCAT (i.e.

“10 mafia leaders of this small group that commits murder and looting” according to the Minister of the Interior) or sending 3500 cops and soldiers to the scene. The insurrection has been ongoing for seven weeks.

Finally, on June 15, 2024, one month after the beginning of the insurrection, the 43rd Congress of the FLNKS was held in Koné, which was supposed to integrate the six new components. Faced with the presence of nearly 300 members of the CCAT who had come in large numbers, who had held their first general assembly in Bourail and intended to make themselves heard as representatives of the “barragists” and the rank and file in struggle without being satisfied with their 10 allocated places, the FLNKS congress was finally postponed after a few hours.

And last but not least, during President Macron’s lightning visit to Kanaky on May 23, ten days after the beginning of the insurrection, he had met several pro-independence components of New Caledonia, that is to say not only the FLNKS parties, but also Christian Tein of the Coordination Cell for Field Actions (CCAT), despite his house arrest. A month later, strengthened by the duplicity linked to any power (a fortiori colonial), he decided to send him to the bottom of a distant jail, with six of his comrades...

23 June. A roadblock in Poya, on the west coast

24 June. Dumbéa, fire at the municipal police station in the Koutio district

25 June, La Foa. Fire at the historic colonial house, known as Lacourt

Païta, June 25. Fire in the building of the “Special Intervention Detachment” of the gendarmerie (DSI)



Solidarity Means Attack. Fuck France, Free Kanaky

17 May / [abolitionmedia](https://www.abolitionmedia.net)

This week, an anti-colonial uprising broke out in Kanaky, an archipelago in the South Pacific. Kanaky was named “New Caledonia” by British colonizer James Cook and has been occupied by France under that name since the 19th century. The Kanaks are black indigenous peoples of the islands whose cultures face genocide from white French “immigrants” who drive them from their lands and impose capitalism. For more general information:

<https://www.infolibertaire.net/?s=Kanak>

France is a member of NATO, an ally of Israel, the capital of anti-immigration racism in Europe, a nuclear-armed state, etc. By attacking France, we support not only Kanaky’s struggle for freedom but also that of many other peoples, including other French colonies in the South Pacific and Caribbean.

If you live near a city, you probably live near a French political, cultural or diplomatic institution or a company that does business with them. You probably live under a government which maintains links with France. Targets are everywhere!

Solidarity means attack, the lessons we learned in the fight against genocide in Palestine, Sudan and Congo can be applied at the same time to those pushing for the French-led genocide of the Kanaks.

Black Power Worldwide! Death to France!

SOLIDARITY MEANS ATTACK! DEATH TO FRANCE, DEATH TO THE COLONIAL STATE!

