

# "MADE IN GERMANY -- A MASSACRE IN CONGO"

CORRECTIV, THE FIRST NON-PROFIT INVESTIGATIVE NEWSROOM IN GERMANY, WAS FOUNDED IN 2014. ONE OF ITS KEY IDEAS IS TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN JOURNALISM BY FINDING NEW WAYS OF STORY-TELLING, THEREBY ATTRACTING NEW AUDIENCES. CORRECTIV THEREFOR HAS TURNED SEVERAL OF ITS INVESTIGATIONS INTO GRAPHIC NOVELS.

WHY IS AFRICA'S HISTORY SO BLOODY? WITH THIS QUESTION IN MIND, THE ARTIST EL MARTO TRAVELS FROM BURKINA FASO TO BERLIN -- TO THE CITY, IN WHICH THE AFRICAN CONTINENT WAS ONCE DIVIDED.

HERE HE DISCOVERS THAT THE AFTERMATH OF GERMANY'S COLONIAL HISTORY CONTINUES TO HAVE A LASTING EFFECT. EVEN TODAY, CRIMES ARE HAPPENING IN AFRICA, WHICH GERMANY COULD PREVENT. A RWANDA MILITIA COMMITS MASSACRES AGAINST THE CIVIL POPULATION IN EASTERN CONGO -- ITS LEADERS LIVE IN GERMANY.

THE ARTIST EL MARTO AND THE JOURNALIST FREDERIK RICHTER TURN THIS CASE INTO AN ILLUSTRATED JOURNEY BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA. BECAUSE THE TWO CONTINENTS ARE CONNECTED BY MORE THAN JUST CRIME.

WORK ON THIS GRAPHIC PROJECT WAS FUNDED BY THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS. YOU CAN FIND MORE ABOUT CORRECTIV AT [CORRECTIV.ORG](http://CORRECTIV.ORG).





EL MARTO & FREDERIK RICHTER

# ***MADE IN GERMANY: A MASSACRE IN CONGO***

A GRAPHIC JOURNEY BETWEEN  
AFRICA AND EUROPE

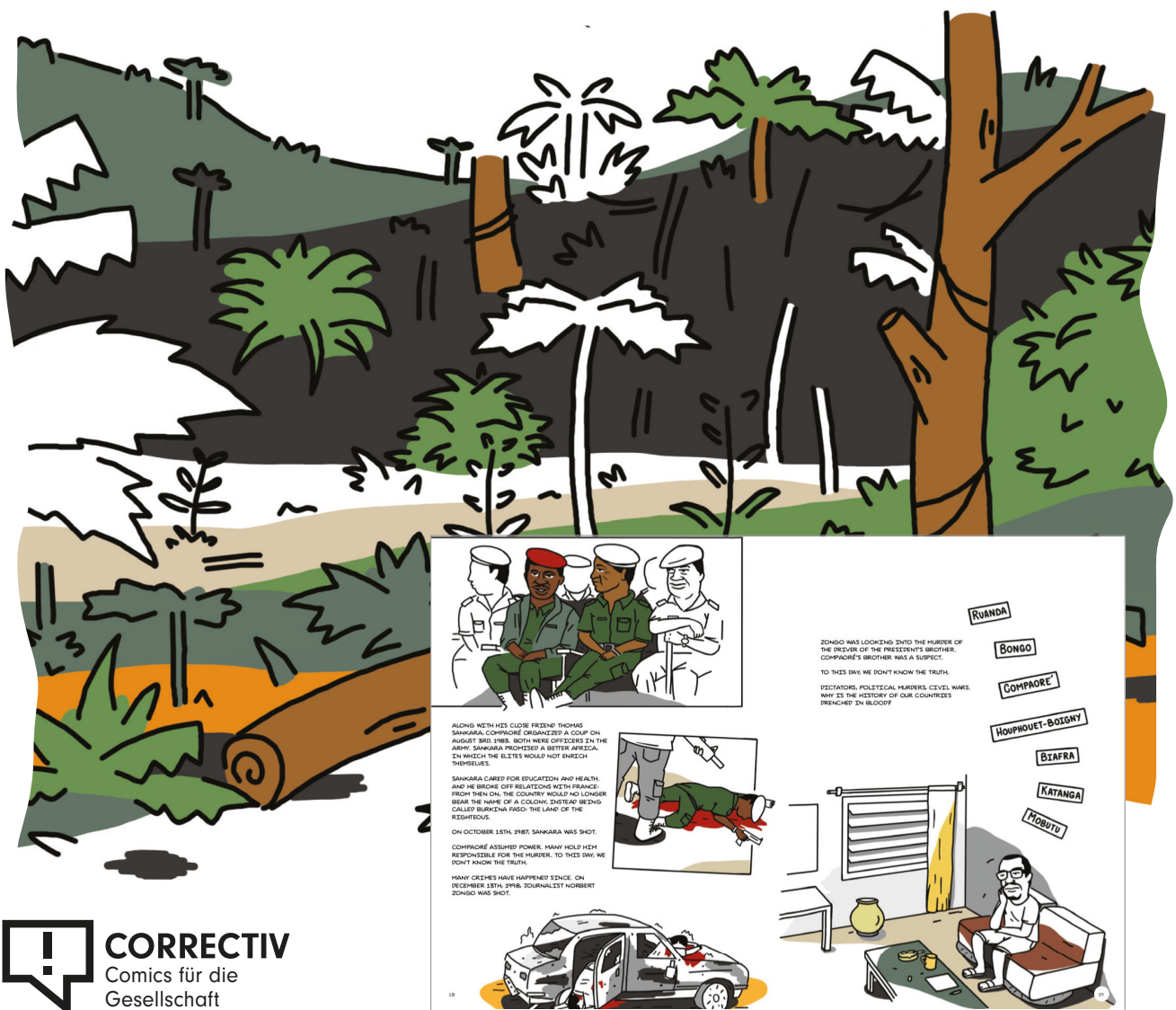


**CORRECTIV**



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EL MARTO IS AN ARTIST WITH ROOTS BOTH IN AFRICA AND IN EUROPE. HE HAS A QUESTION ON HIS MIND: WHY IS THE HISTORY OF AFRICA SO BLOODY? AND WHICH ROLE DOES EUROPE PLAY IN THAT?







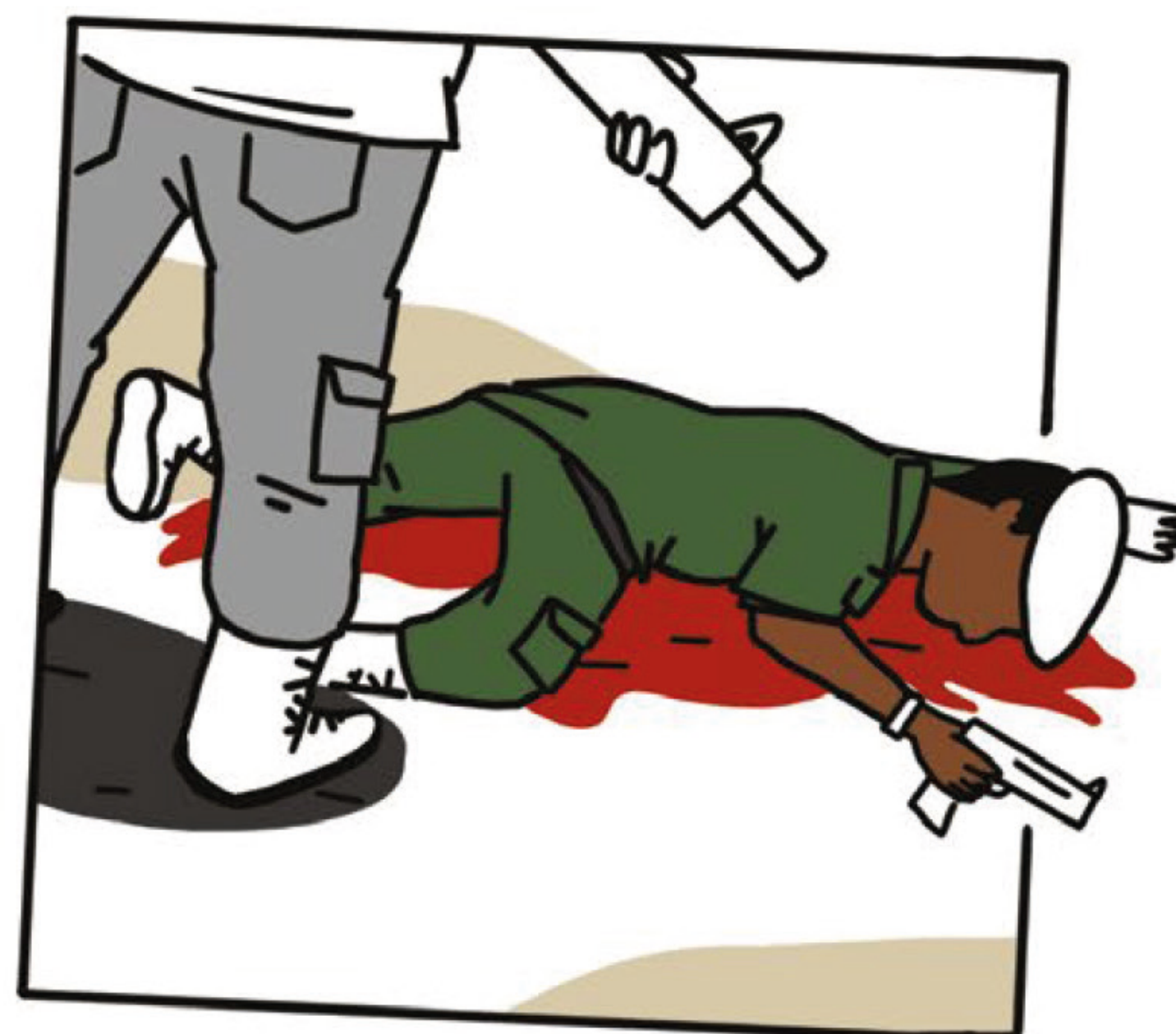
ALONG WITH HIS CLOSE FRIEND THOMAS SANKARA, COMPAORÉ ORGANIZED A COUP ON AUGUST 3RD, 1983. BOTH WERE OFFICERS IN THE ARMY. SANKARA PROMISED A BETTER AFRICA, IN WHICH THE ELITES WOULD NOT ENRICH THEMSELVES.

SANKARA CARED FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH. AND HE BROKE OFF RELATIONS WITH FRANCE: FROM THEN ON, THE COUNTRY WOULD NO LONGER BEAR THE NAME OF A COLONY, INSTEAD BEING CALLED BURKINA FASO: THE LAND OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

ON OCTOBER 15TH, 1987, SANKARA WAS SHOT.

COMPAORÉ ASSUMED POWER. MANY HOLD HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER. TO THIS DAY, WE DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH.

MANY CRIMES HAVE HAPPENED SINCE. ON DECEMBER 13TH, 1998, JOURNALIST NORBERT ZONGO WAS SHOT.



ZONGO WAS LOOKING INTO THE MURDER OF THE DRIVER OF THE PRESIDENT'S BROTHER. COMPAORÉ'S BROTHER WAS A SUSPECT.

TO THIS DAY, WE DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH.

DICTATORS, POLITICAL MURDERS, CIVIL WARS. WHY IS THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRIES DRENCHED IN BLOOD?

RUANDA

BONGO

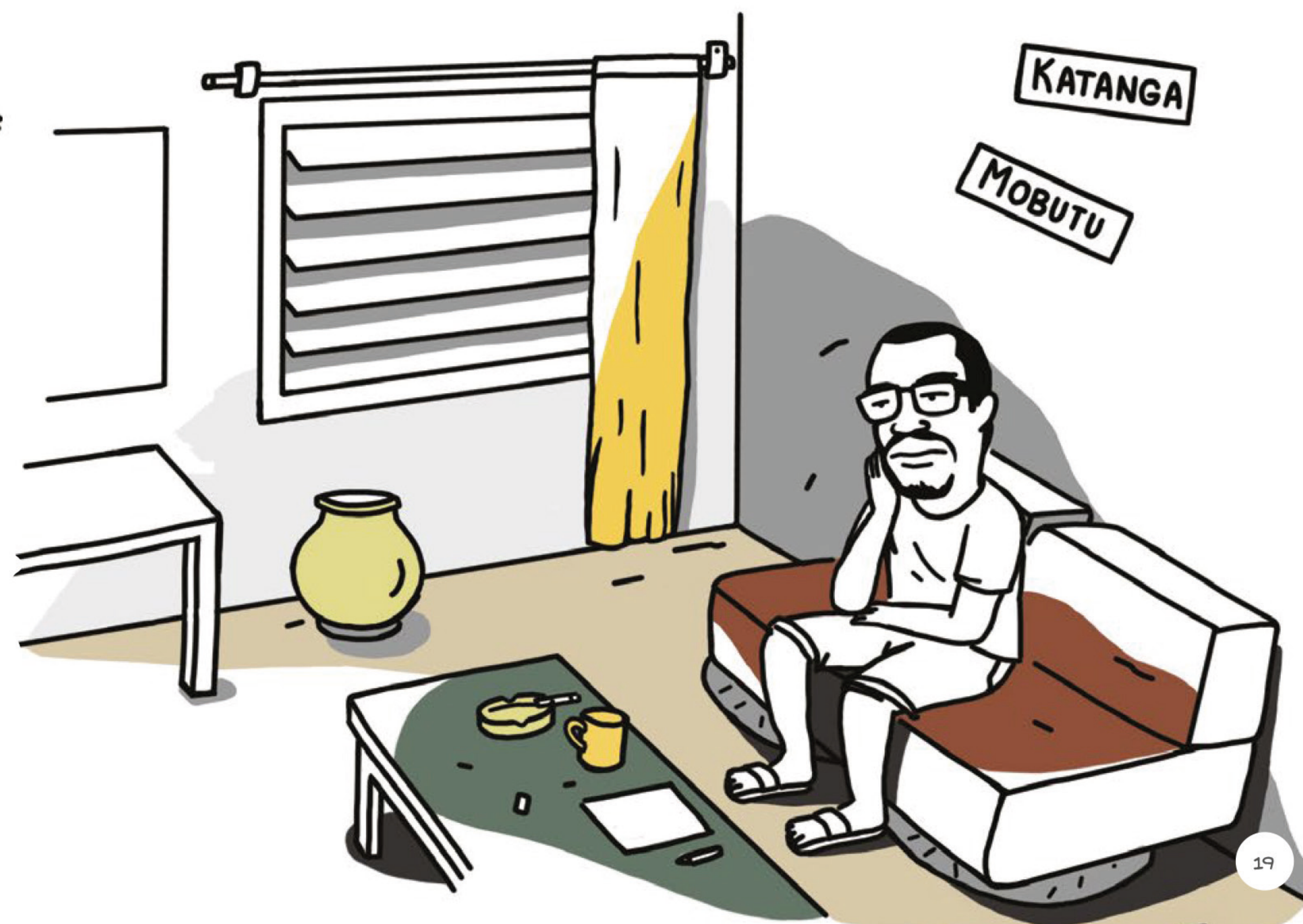
COMPAORE'

HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY

BIAFRA

KATANGA

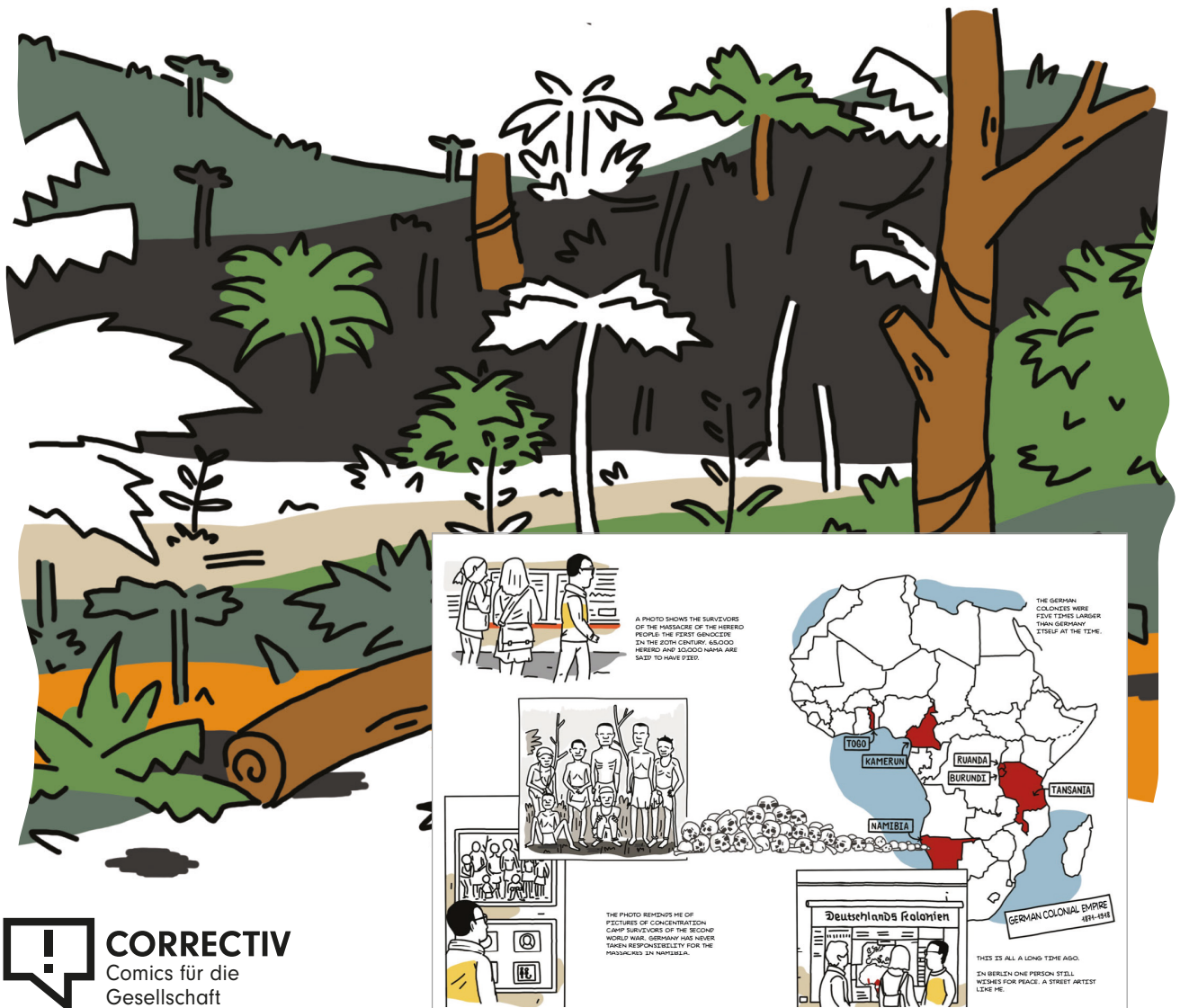
MOBUTU





# "MADE IN GERMANY -- A MASSACRE IN CONGO"

IN BERLIN, EL MARTO DISCOVERS GERMANY'S COLONIAL PAST WHEN VISITING AN EXHIBITION AT A LOCAL MUSEUM.



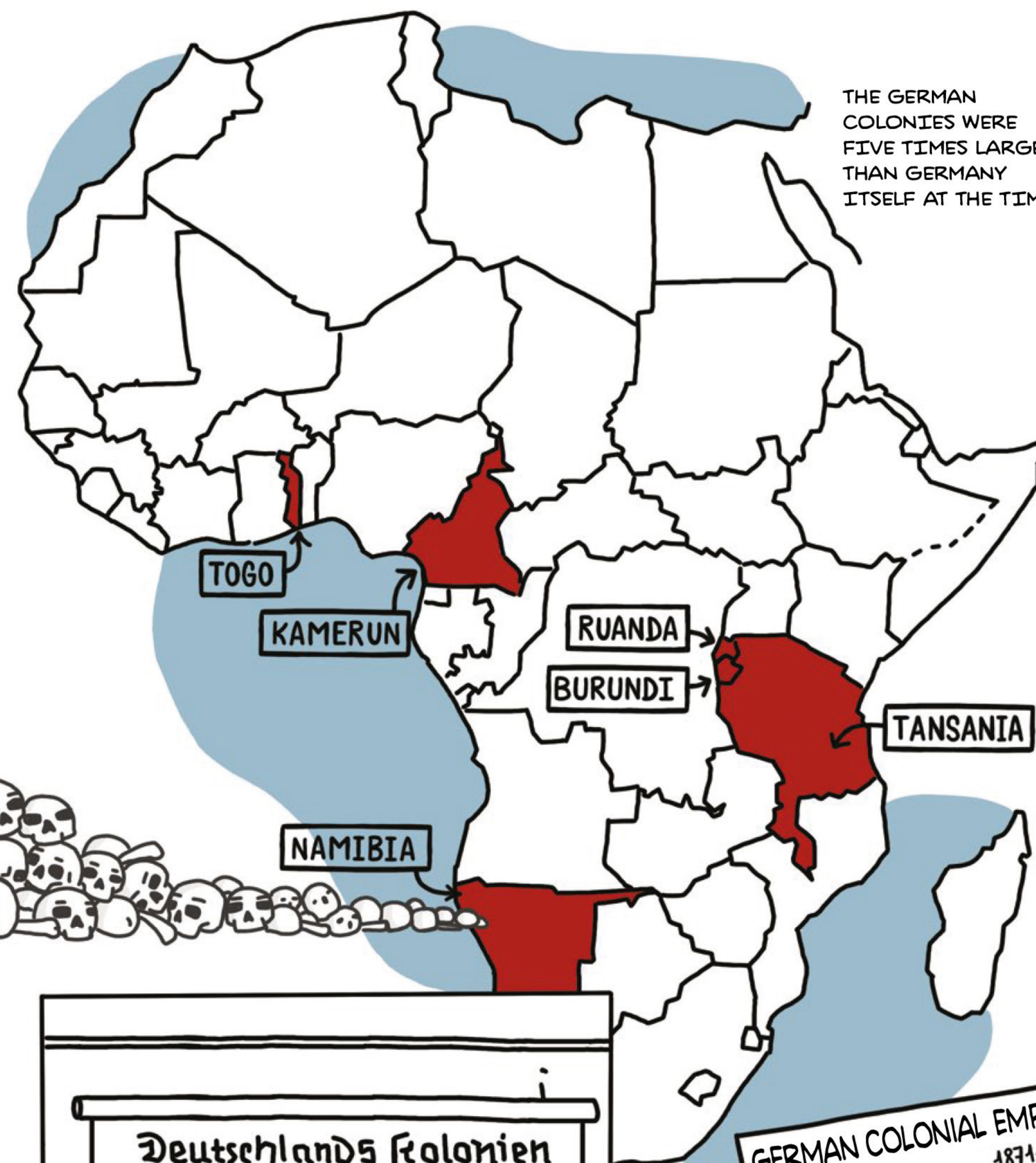




A PHOTO SHOWS THE SURVIVORS OF THE MASSACRE OF THE HERERO PEOPLE: THE FIRST GENOCIDE IN THE 20TH CENTURY. 65,000 HERERO AND 10,000 NAMA ARE SAID TO HAVE DIED.



THE PHOTO REMINDS ME OF PICTURES OF CONCENTRATION CAMP SURVIVORS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. GERMANY HAS NEVER TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MASSACRES IN NAMIBIA.



THE GERMAN COLONIES WERE FIVE TIMES LARGER THAN GERMANY ITSELF AT THE TIME.



THIS IS ALL A LONG TIME AGO.

IN BERLIN ONE PERSON STILL WISHES FOR PEACE. A STREET ARTIST LIKE ME.



# "MADE IN GERMANY -- A MASSACRE IN CONGO"

EL MARTO DISCOVERS THAT SOME OF  
TODAY'S POLITICAL CONFLICTS IN AFRICA CAN  
BE TRACED BACK ALL THE WAY TO THE TIME WHEN  
GERMANY MAINTAINED COLONIES IN AFRICA.



IN THE GERMAN COLONY OF EAST AFRICA, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FIGHTS OVER THE INDICENTIFICATION OF THE POPULATION.

THE COLONIAL POWERS ARE USING THE TRECOK ALL RULERS APPLY. THEY DIVIDE. BELGIUM EVEN CREATES NEW IDENTITIES IN THE REGION FOR THIS PURPOSE. THEY DIVIDE THE POPULATION INTO HUTU AND TUTSI.

TO THIS DAY HISTORIANS ARE PUZZLED ABOUT WHAT THE DIFFERENCE ORIGINALLY WAS.



MAYBE IT WAS SIMPLY DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS THAT EXISTED IN PAST CENTURIES AT THE ROYAL COURT IN RWANDA. THAT WOULD MEAN THAT SOMEBODY COULD BE HUTU AND THEN TUTSI. OR THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

IN ANY CASE THEY WERE NOT DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS UNTIL THE EUROPEANS INVENTED THEM IN ORDER TO RULE.

AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, GERMANY REMAINS TRUE TO ITS FORMER COLONY.

GERMAN DEVELOPMENT AID SUPPORTS THE COUNTRY (DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE MILITARY RULER JOSEPH KABAREGE, WHO CAME TO POWER IN 1978, CAUSES ON WITH THE DEVISION FROM THE COLONIAL TIME. HIS RULE HAD A CIVIL SOCIETY CAPABLE OF PROTECTING THE COUNTRY FROM INTERNAL CONFLICTS IMPOSSIBLE.

THE GERMAN ARMY PROVIDES TRAINING TO OFFICERS OF THE RWANDAN ARMY. SHORTLY AFTER, ONE OF THEM IS INVOLVED IN ONE OF THE DARKEST CHAPTERS OF AFRICAN HISTORY.





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IN 2000, HUTU LEADERS WHO HAD FLED RWANDA  
TO EASTERN CONGO AFTER THE 1994 GENOCIDE  
CREATED A NEW MILITIA: THE FORCES DEMOCRATIQUES  
POUR LA LIBERATION (FDLR). THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL:  
TO RETURN TO RWANDA.

ITS POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WAS LIVING FAR AWAY:  
IN GERMANY.



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Comics für die  
Gesellschaft

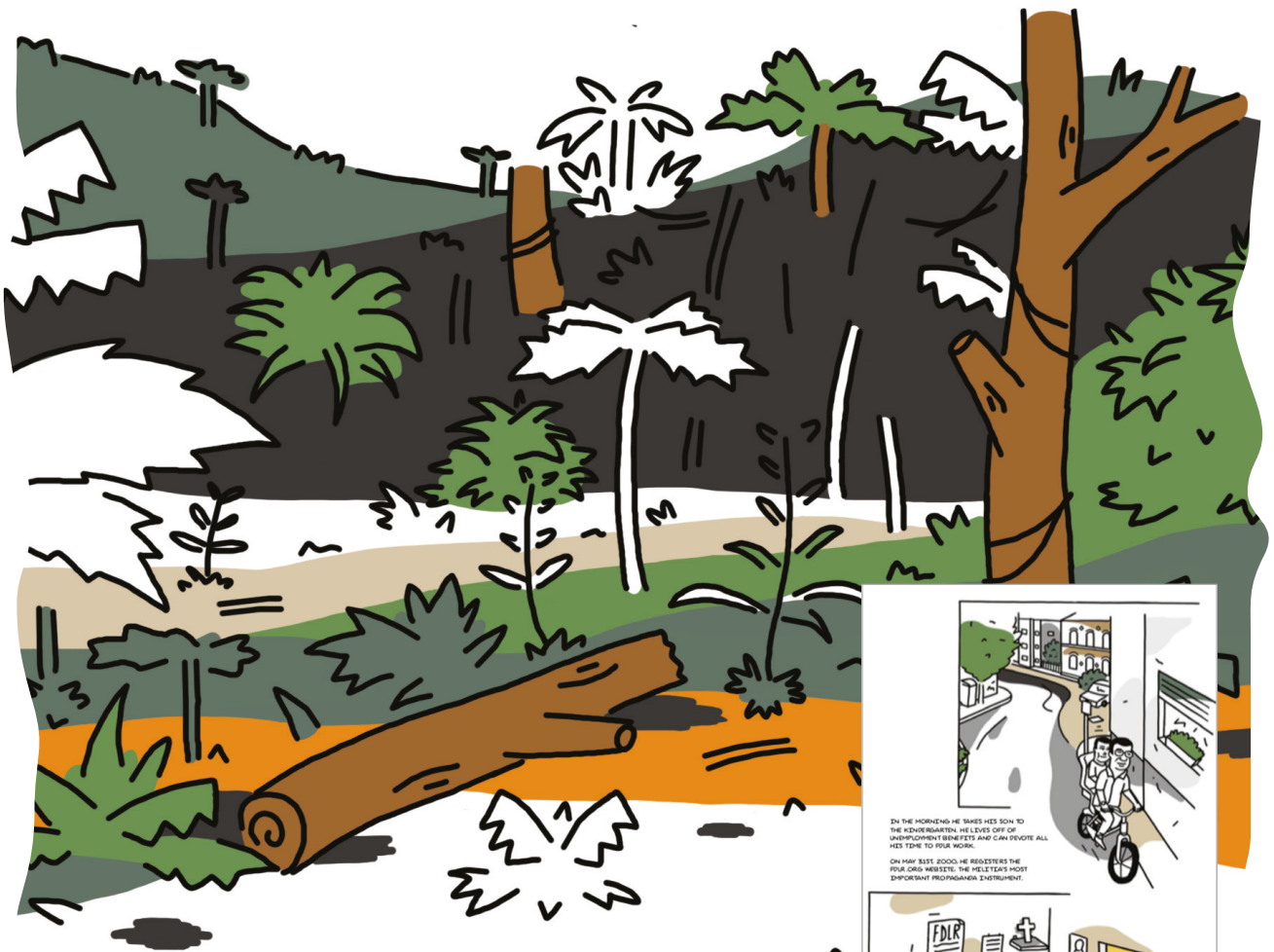






# "MADE IN GERMANY -- A MASSACRE IN CONGO"

FDLR PRESIDENT IGNACE MURWANASHYAKA HAD  
ARRIVED IN GERMANY IN THE 1980S. HELPED  
WITH HIS INTEGRATION BY THE GERMAN CHURCH,  
HE WAS LIVING A QUIET LIFE IN THE SOUTH  
OF GERMANY.







IN THE MORNING HE TAKES HIS SON TO THE KINDERGARTEN. HE LIVES OFF OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND CAN DEVOTE ALL HIS TIME TO FDLR WORK.

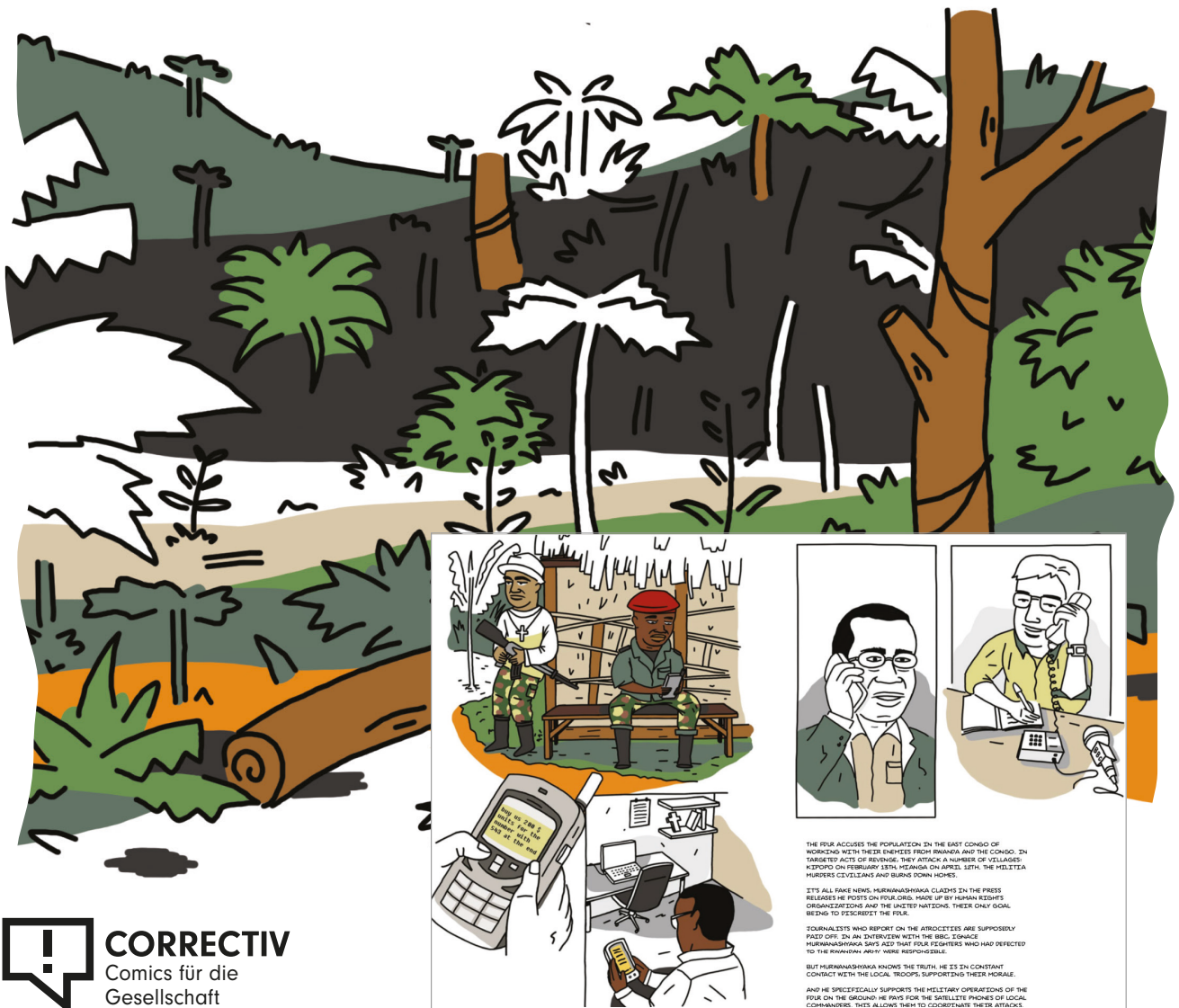
ON MAY 31ST, 2000, HE REGISTERS THE FDLR.ORG WEBSITE, THE MILITIA'S MOST IMPORTANT PROPAGANDA INSTRUMENT.





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BUT HE ALSO HELP SPREAD THE MILITIA'S PROPAGANDA AND ASSISTED ITS MILITARY COMMANDERS IN MAINTAINING THEIR COMMUNICATION AT A TIME WHEN THE MILITIA WAS CONDUCTING SEVERAL MASSACRES AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN EASTERN CONGO IN 2009.







THE FDLR ACCUSES THE POPULATION IN THE EAST CONGO OF WORKING WITH THEIR ENEMIES FROM RWANDA AND THE CONGO. IN TARGETED ACTS OF REVENGE, THEY ATTACK A NUMBER OF VILLAGES: KIPOPO ON FEBRUARY 13TH, MIANGA ON APRIL 12TH. THE MILITIA MURDERS CIVILIANS AND BURNS DOWN HOMES.

IT'S ALL FAKE NEWS, MURWANASHYAKA CLAIMS IN THE PRESS RELEASES HE POSTS ON FDLR.ORG. MADE UP BY HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS. THEIR ONLY GOAL BEING TO DISCREDIT THE FDLR.

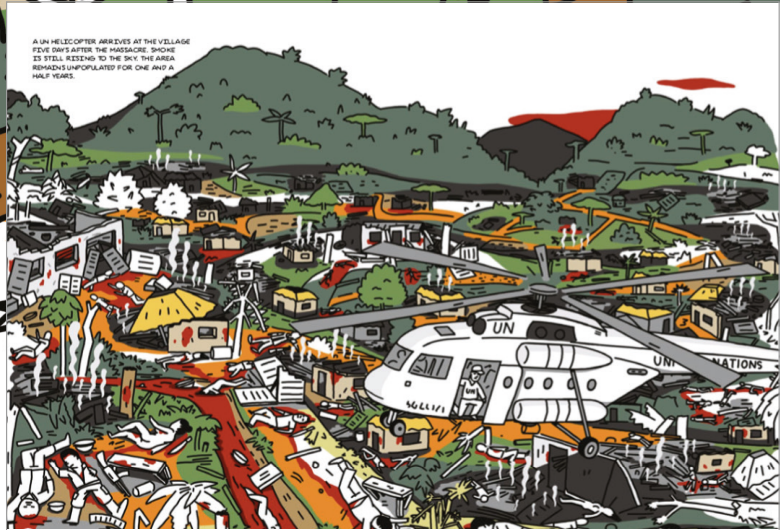
JOURNALISTS WHO REPORT ON THE ATROCITIES ARE SUPPOSEDLY PAID OFF. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE BBC, IGNACE MURWANASHYAKA SAYS AID THAT FDLR FIGHTERS WHO HAD DEFECTED TO THE RWANDAN ARMY WERE RESPONSIBLE.

BUT MURWANASHYAKA KNOWS THE TRUTH. HE IS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL TROOPS, SUPPORTING THEIR MORALE.

AND HE SPECIFICALLY SUPPORTS THE MILITARY OPERATIONS OF THE FDLR ON THE GROUND: HE PAYS FOR THE SATELLITE PHONES OF LOCAL COMMANDERS. THIS ALLOWS THEM TO COORDINATE THEIR ATTACKS.



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A UN HELICOPTER ARRIVES AT THE VILLAGE FIVE DAYS AFTER THE MASSACRE. SMOKE IS STILL RISING TO THE SKY. THE AREA REMAINS UNPOPULATED FOR ONE AND A HALF YEARS.





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GERMAN AUTHORITIES LONG TURNED A BLIND EYE TO THE FDLR ACTIVITIES. EVENTUALLY, MURWANASHYAKA WAS ARRESTED AND SENTENCED TO PRISON BY A GERMAN COURT.

EL MARTO HOPES THAT ONE DAY THE POLITICAL CRIMES AND THE VIOLENCE WILL ONE DAY BE DOCUMENTED AS WELL AS THE FDLR MASSACRES IN CONGO.





I TAKE A LAST WALK THROUGH BERLIN. IN THE AFRICAN DISTRICT, STREETS AND PLACES HAVE BEEN NAMED AFTER WAR CRIMINALS FOR A CENTURY. THEY COMMITTED MURDERS IN THE GERMAN COLONIES IN AFRICA.



IN SPRING 2018, THE DISTRICT DECIDED TO NAME THE STREETS AFTER RESISTANCE FIGHTERS. THE DEBATE ABOUT IT LASTED MORE THAN TEN YEARS.

THE AMBITION OF CHANGING OUR VIEW OF THE COMMON HISTORY OF AFRICA AND EUROPE WILL TAKE TIME. IT IS NOT EASY TO CONCERN ONESELF WITH THE PAST.

THE STORY OF MURWANASHYAKA: AFRICA AND EUROPE ARE CONNECTED BY MANY CRIMES.

BUT US ARTISTS AND JOURNALISTS CAN CONNECT THE CONTINENTS AS WELL. WE, TOO, CAN COOPERATE.

WE CAN SEEK THE TRUTH.