

I was born on April 14, 1971 in Fort-de-France in Martinique, in a French island, like Guadeloupe, located in the Caribbean. I grew up in the rural center of this small island, in the commune of Saint-Esprit, where banana monoculture is practiced, dedicated to export to France, to Europe.

I was unaware, like my family, my neighbors and most people in Guadeloupe and Martinique, that the land, the water in the rivers, then the sea, were largely soaked in a pesticide from the DDT family: CHLORDECONE.

I was unaware, like my family, my neighbors and most people from Guadeloupe and Martinique, that CHLORDECONE had been banned in the United States in 1975: an ecological disaster that occurred in Louisiana had revealed this toxic deadly formula to the public.

I was unaware, like my family, my neighbors and most people from Guadeloupe and Martinique, that CHLORDECONE had only been banned by France in 1990, fifteen years later. On this side of the Atlantic, everything is possible.

I was unaware, like my family, my neighbors and most Guadeloupeans and Martinicans that CHLORDECONE had been spread on our islands until 1993, three years after the ban in France with the argument that there were no alternatives to this highly carcinogenic pesticide. I did not know, like my family, my neighbors and most Guadeloupeans and Martinicans that Guadeloupe and Martinique had the highest rate of prostate cancer in the world. I did not know, like my family, my neighbors and most Guadeloupeans and Martinicans that Guadeloupe and Martinique had the highest rate of prostate cancer in the world.

I did not know, like my family, my neighbors and most Guadeloupeans and Martinicans that CHLORDECONE, classified as a Persistent Organic Pollutant, remained active and deadly for hundreds of years, probably seven hundreds, making polluted lands and seas partly unsuitable for food crops, and to fishing.

Our dependence on imported food products, already extreme, has only been cleverly reinforced.

Bananas eaten in Europe do not contain any traces of CHLORDECONE. Bananas eaten in Europe do not contain any traces of CHLORDECONE. CHLORDECONE is only found in the land where the banana tree draws its strength: in Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Banana cargo ships land in the ports of Europe, the immaculate yellow, the unbridled smile, the delicious exoticism of these Warholian starlets. On the other side of the Atlantic, in my trash island, toxic substances thrive with boundless impunity, in our trash islands, decades on CHLORDECONE drips.