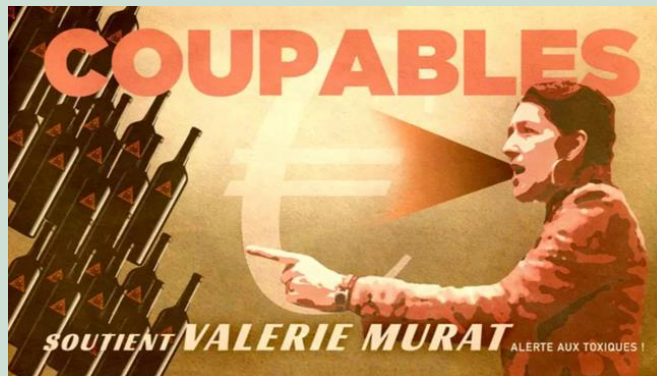




Pesticide newsletter

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Jurisdictional news



France: Valérie Murat prevented from appealing her conviction in a SLAPP

The Court of Appeal of Bordeaux has denied the right to Valérie Murat, spokeswoman for the NGO [Alerte aux Toxiques](#), to appeal her conviction to pay € 125,000 to the Bordeaux wine industry for disparagement in a [lawsuit](#) brought by the CIVB (interprofessional council of Bordeaux wines). She had been [sentenced](#) on February 25, 2021 to this exorbitant fine for having published analyses showing the presence of pesticides in 22 wines labeled HVE (high environmental value). Seized by the CIVB and other organizations and owners of the local wine industry, the Court of Appeal [decided](#) on November 10, 2021 that Valérie Murat cannot appeal until she has paid in full the fine of € 125,000 to which she was sentenced.

The court did not accept the good faith put forward by the appellant, who has been paying € 800 per month since April. According to Valérie Murat, even if she paid her entire salary, it would take her 10 years to pay the entire € 125,000 imposed by the court of Libourne. This is the heaviest sentence in Europe for a case of this kind.

The appellant denounces a trial [to silence her](#), her appeal being conditioned to the payment of an exorbitant sum: "For the CIVB, which has a budget of € 19 million, the goal is not to win, but to silence me, and I will never be silenced". The French anti-pesticide groups note that the Bordeaux wines have not attacked other organizations that have conducted similar tests (such as France 2, UFC-Que choisir, etc.) and see "double standards".

Valérie Murat [launches an appeal for financial support](#) in order to continue the legal battle. She has two years to collect the required amount. Justice Pesticides encourages all those who can to support this courageous whistleblower who takes considerable risks to denounce the "greenwashing" of the Bordeaux wine industry.

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