

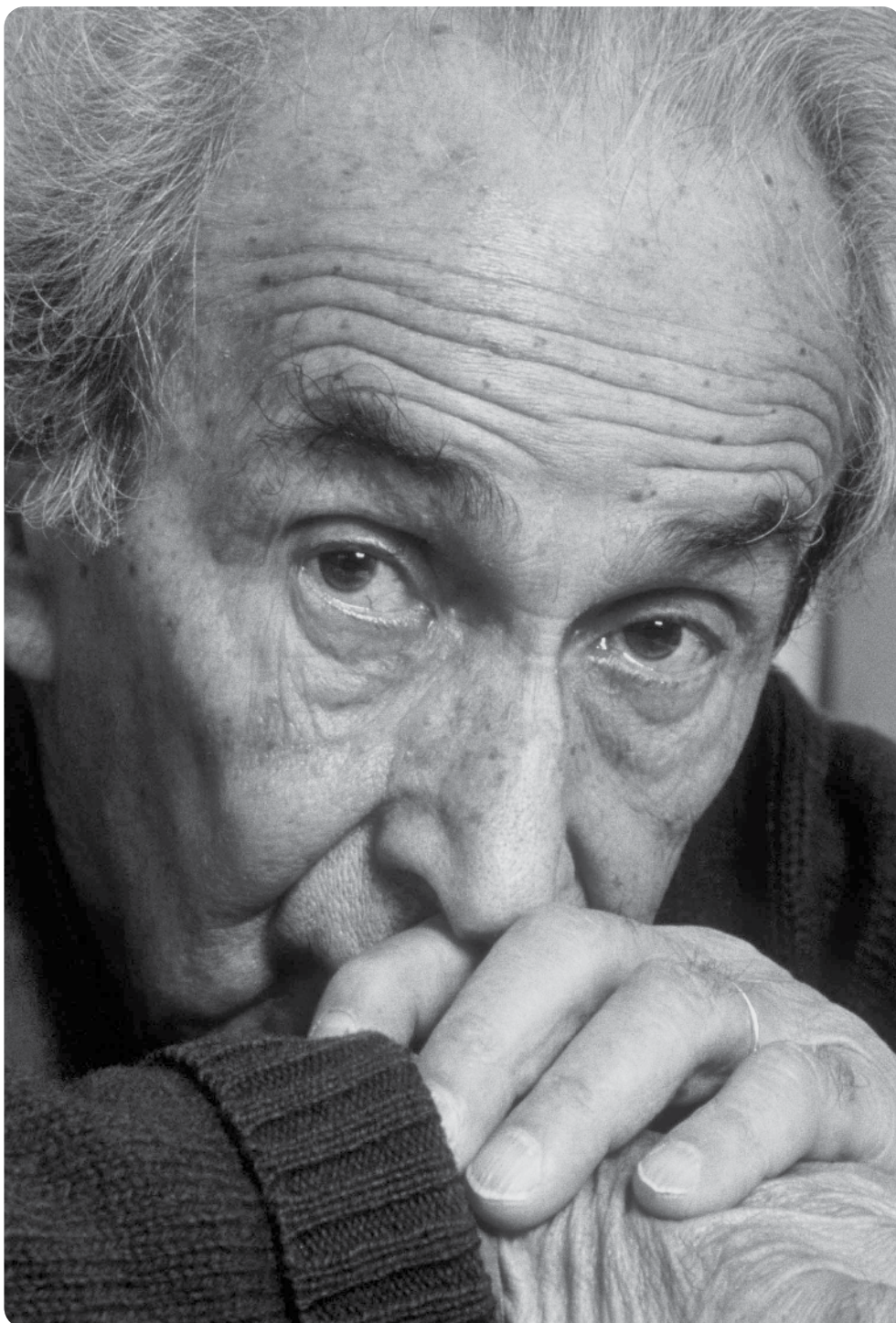
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# SENTINELLES

TO THE RESCUE OF WOUNDED INNOCENCE

40  
Years

N° 272 / October 2020



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**Each Sentinel is responsible  
for the whole empire**

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**A retrospective of a  
40-year commitment**

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**Fundraising concert  
at the Victoria Hall**

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## Why the name Sentinelles ?

Edmond Kaiser was an avid reader of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's oeuvre. In 1960, he elected to name the organisation he had just founded after the third book of this author: *Terre des hommes*. 20 years later, in 1980, the Sentinelles association sees the light of day. Why Sentinelles? Because, quoting Saint-Exupéry: "and thus until the modest shepherd. Because he who humbly watches over a few sheep under the stars, if he becomes aware of his role, he will realise he is more than a servant, he is a sentinel. And every sentinel is responsible for the whole empire". Its founder's wish: a small, lean and mean team that is ready to fight for those ignored or forgotten distresses, for those among the most destitute, who have no recourse nor support, facing their suffering alone.

Forty years of activity will spread these sentinels across the world. Girls and women have always had a prominent position in the foundation's activities: they who are victims of genital mutilation, this barbarian practice that will prompt Edmond Kaiser, in 1984, to go all around the presidents of the affected countries in Africa; they who were destined to die as a way to avenge the family honour in India, in North Africa, in the United Arab Emirates, in Iran, in the ex-Yugoslavia; the single mothers and their children in Tunisia and India where a programme will also be opened for baby-girls who were under the threat to be killed. The women who are victims of war crimes in RD Congo, those who are abandoned and live in extreme poverty with their children. The *Trokosi* slave girls and women in Ghana...

Children are not overlooked, there are so many of them in the world who are exploited, mistreated, abused, left without care. Sentinelles will engage in many actions to give them a bearable and dignified life back. And so, the discovery in Niger and Burkina Faso of children victims of *noma*, their face eaten away by this dreadful disease, will prompt Sentinelles to come to their rescue. The children who are coal miners in Colombia, who suffocate in galleries that are too narrow for adults, who handle pickaxes way too heavy for them; bring them back to fresh air and teach them a trade. Those who are victims of any kind of abuse, bring them to a safe place and support them to a

better life whilst denouncing their persecutors in Nepal, in Senegal, in Romania... In Madagascar, the underaged ones who are incarcerated for petty misdemeanours because they are hungry, because mum needs help for feeding the younger ones, let them get an education, let them develop an income generating activity so they can be in charge of their life again; all of those who come from very poor families that can't provide them the necessary medical treatment for lack of resources...

Always centred around an individual, one by one as prescribed by our charter, relief efforts meet the urgency and then comes the short, middle or long-term support, close, kind and lasting as long as the situation requires it. Autonomy is the master word and the objective of this journey on the side of those who are taken care of by Sentinelles is: rather than give them fish, teach them how to fish.

Forty years on the roads of the world, forty years to the rescue of those in deep distress, everything that could be accomplished was only accomplished thanks to those who generously and loyally supported us during the years. We thank them most gratefully.

Today, the growing insecurity in several countries where the foundation is active makes the work of our teams more and more difficult, and this year the Covid-19 and its disastrous consequences on the economy make us fear a drastic diminution of contributions.

More than ever, your support is paramount, and we count on your generosity. In advance our warmest thanks!



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Badel'.

*Christiane Badel*  
Chairwoman of Sentinelles



## I MADAGASCAR

In Antananarivo, our Centre offers workshops in cutting and sewing, craft creation, cooking, pastry making and food processing to young beneficiaries of our programmes. These training schemes lead on to either a job in the world of textiles, or onto a micro project.

Onja, who is now 19 years old, had been supported as a child in our care programme for an orthopaedic problem, at present she is almost entirely fixed. A little more than two years ago, she rejoined our workshops to learn fashion there, having the goal of setting up her own workshop. This year, thanks to the savings made by selling her products with the help of Sentinelles, she has been able to buy a sewing machine. Since January, she has been making clothes for babies at home. For the moment she does subcontracting work, but intends to create her own clothing workshop as soon as possible.

## I CONGO

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, our team has grown with the arrival of a new collaborator in charge of the supervision of women and children detained in the main prison of Bukavu. This new Sentinelles' programme, started in April of this year, is supported by la Chaîne de Bonheur.

Despite the corona virus pandemic, the local team has worked hard to put this project in place without too much delay and of course without neglecting the monitoring of families in rural areas.



## I SENEGAL

In Senegal, Sentinelles has recently launched a new project within the school of M. Wade which consists of 141 talibe children. It has a cultivable area of about 3 hectares which has never been used because of the lack of water. We decided to finance a market gardening project there with the drilling of an 11-metre-deep well and the construction of 2 water tanks for irrigation.

This project aims to empower the daara so that it can take on the education and care of talibe until now supported by our foundation. It also has an educational aspect, offering introductory workshops in market gardening to children.

## — AGENDA —

So you don't forget our events marking 40 years...

### LAUSANNE TOWN HALL FORUM

From October 14 to 31, Place de la Palud 2, Lausanne.

For a few more days, come and discover our photo exhibition, as well as original drawings by our friend Raymond Burki.

### CANDLELIGHT CONCERT\*

Friday, November 27, 8 p.m., at Saint-François Church in Lausanne.

Come and attend a beautiful tribute to the 40 years of Sentinelles thanks to the children of "the Ministrings".

Free entry, fundraising for children in distress.

### SUPPORT CONCERT OF THE BRASS BAND ARQUEBUSE GENEVA \*

Sunday, October 25, 5 p.m., at the Victoria Hall in Geneva

Free entry, collection intended to help the most wounded.

See more information on page 8.

*\*Subject to modifications.*



## Milestones

Upon reading Benoîte Groult's book "Ainsi soit-elle (in English: My Escape)", in 1976, Edmond Kaiser discovers the atrocity and size of the physical and psychological drama that millions of girls endure through genital mutilation whether they want it or not. Against this massacre that occurs in general indifference and silence, he decides to initiate a struggle against this tradition that kills African girls and women.

He won his first battle (1979) when public opinion, alerted worldwide, will eventually force the WHO to include this practice in its programme. In 1978, Edmond Kaiser learns about the horrendous destiny of young women who, as an act of revenge for the family honour, will endure a certain and violent death at the hands of their own family. He brings them relief, immediately and pragmatically, in helping them leave their countries and settle elsewhere, despite the HCR's refusal to grant them a refugee status. The obviousness of this distress and of its relief will prompt Edmond Kaiser to found Sentinelles.

### 1980

**Creation of Sentinelles** by Edmond Kaiser (March 25, 1980) to the rescue of wounded innocence. The actions target primarily feminine genital mutilations and bring emergency aid to women victims of honour crimes.

**Switzerland :** fight against arms exports, poster campaign and hunger strike by Edmond Kaiser.

**Guatemala :** relief channel to clandestine refugees who escaped from the massacre against Mayan Indians.

**Irak-Iran :** freeing Iranian children soldiers who were detained in Iraq.



**Italy :** opening of a foster home for young women who have escaped honour crimes.

### 1981

**China Sea :** provide emergency aid to boatpeople, creation of the international committee against piracy.

**Switzerland :** holding of a press conference and intervening at UNO against exported paedophile activism.

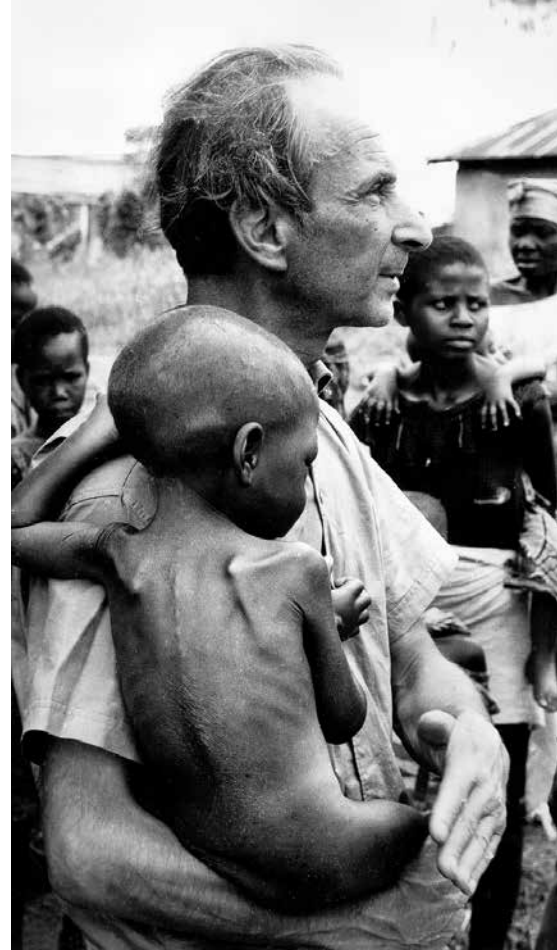
### 1982

**Tunisia :** support programme for single mothers and their children.

### 1983

**Colombia :** freeing child coal miners and supporting "Aurores" (young women stepping out of prostitution).

**France :** foster structure for young women who escaped from honour crimes.



## 1984

**Africa :** beginning of the round to the presidents of countries where sexual mutilations occur.

**Togo :** working towards the creation of a foster centre for children who are lost, abandoned or victims of various types of bad treatment, where they can be safe before being reintegrated within their family.



## 1985

**Guina-Conakry :** organising the first international workshop on feminine genital mutilations.

**India :** on behalf of the victims of the Bhopal disaster, obtaining one million dollars from Union Carbide.

## 1986

**Colombia :** opening in Bogota of a foster centre for young people suffering from a handicap, and of another one in Minas for children whose mothers have to prostitute themselves to survive.

## 1987

**Burkina Faso :** following up on severely malnourished children; freeing children leading the blind.

**Inde :** in Goa, support programme for end-angered young women and single mothers.

**Madagascar :** social work at the Anjan-amasina Detention Centre for boys and at the Antinamora Centre for girls and women.

**Portugal :** opening of a small foster centre for abandoned children.

◀ **Senegal :** freeing children leading the blind.

## 1990

**Burkina Faso :** taking care of children suffering from noma.



## 1991

**India :** in Bombay, opening of a kindergarten in the Kamathipura red light district.

**Madagascar :** health care programme for children suffering from poliomyelitis and other physical malformations.

## 1992

**Madagascar :** opening of a medical centre and of a small school in the poor Antohomadinika neighbourhood.

**Niger :** first relief programme for children suffering from noma; calls for support to international organisations, including the WHO that refuses to commission an etiological study.





## 1993

**India and Nepal:** freeing children leading the blind.

**Palestine:** supporting abandoned old people in Gaza and Palestinian women imprisoned in Israel.

**Romania:** taking care of children abandoned in orphanages; adoption.

## 1994

**Brazil:** supporting families who separate waste and their children.

**Nepal:** creating an association and a foster centre to support children who are incarcerated with one of their parents.

**Rwanda:** taking care of children who were severely wounded during the genocide; supporting orphans; adoption.

## 1995

**Angola:** discovering Rosita whose leg was torn off by a landmine; taking care of her medical treatment and prosthesis; this action was a direct inspiration when the text of the Sentinelles charter was written. ▶

**Niger:** first surgical mission against noma.

## 1996

◀ **Ghana:** freeing Trokosi girls and women.

**Nepal:** relief to children who are victims of paedophiles and stopping their persecutors. On September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Sentinelles association becomes a foundation.

## 1998

**South India:** relief programme in favour of baby girls who risk being killed.

## 2000

**Kenya:** relief programme in favour of young women fleeing genital mutilations; taking care of women suffering from obstetric fistulae.

**Senegal:** relief to talibe children (exploited by marabouts). ▶



## 2002

**Niger:** launch of an etiological research project on noma with the multidisciplinary group Gesnoma (Geneva).

**Nigéria:** support to women who are condemned to death by lapidation according to the Sharia.



## 2004

**Burkina Faso:** support programme to women victims of obstetrical fistulae.

## 2005

**Niger:** emergency relief to starving children; construction of a new foster centre in Zinder for children suffering from noma.

## 2007

**Democratic Republic of Congo:** establishment of a Sentinelles delegation in Bukavu to the rescue of women victims of war violence.



## 2008

**Senegal** : prosecutions leading to the conviction and imprisonment of a marabout for extreme abuses against a talibe child.

## 2012

**Kenya** : production of a movie against female genital mutilations in West Pokot.

## 2013

**Colombia** : creation of a new care centre for children victim of abuses.

**Switzerland** : collaboration agreement with the Geneva University Hospital (paediatric healthcare programme).

**Niger** : 1000<sup>th</sup> child suffering from noma who is taken care of by Sentinelles. ▼



## 2015

◀ **Burkina Faso** : launch of a broad awareness campaign about noma in the villages of the East region of the country.

**Madagascar** : acquisition of a foster house. ▼



**Switzerland** : creation of the Associations "Les amis de Sentinelles" (Friends of Sentinelles) in Geneva to strengthen and develop the Foundation's activities.

## 2017

**Switzerland** : creation of the Association "Sentinelles Fribourg" to support Sentinelles' commitments.

## 2018

**Burkina Faso – Switzerland** : shooting of the movie "Undisguised" that depicts the life of children suffering from noma who are welcomed at the Sentinelles Care Centre in Ouagadougou.



## 2020

▲ **Democratic Republic of Congo** : relief to women and their children incarcerated in the Bukavu Central Prison.

**Switzerland** : transfer of Sentinelles' historic records (1980 – 2000) to the Archives of the Canton de Vaud.

### Countries where Sentinelles is nowadays established

Burkina Faso  
Colombia  
Madagascar  
Niger  
DR Congo  
Senegal  
Switzerland

Other countries  
(partnerships / ad hoc actions)

Algeria, Benin, Cameroun, Gabon,  
Nepal, Nigeria, Russia, Syria



# Fundraising concert of the Arquebuse Brass Band

Organised by the Association "Les amis de Sentinelles",  
on October 25, 2020 at 5pm in the Victoria Hall in Geneva \*

It is our pleasure and honour to receive the generous contribution of the Geneva Arquebuse Brass Band as they join with Sentinelles for our forty years of struggle. Come in numbers and vibrate to the sound of the brass instruments, and celebrate our anniversary together with us. Free entry, passing of the hat to the rescue of those in deep distress.

Composed of thirty-four professional musicians and students of the professional class of the Geneva Conservatory, the Arquebuse Brass Band is one of the best bands in Switzerland. Its music is inspired by the greatest English brass band tradition. For more than twenty-five years, it has been directed by Jean-Pierre Chevailler, a Musical Director who is well known in French-speaking Switzerland for his collaboration with the Swiss Radio Television, especially the Kiosque à musiques programme every Saturday morning.

The brass band ensemble is composed of a full range of brass instruments like a chamber orchestra; five brass categories, i.e. cornet, altos, barytons, euphoniums, trombones and tubas as well as comprehensive percussions with keyboards. For many professional musicians it is an ideal step before obtaining a position in a symphonic orchestra. The brass band repertoire gets richer by the years with the addition of modern and popular compositions.

\* Subject to changes

The orchestra belongs to the Foundation of the Arquebuse and Navigation Exercises. It plays during the Arquebuse events and performs numerous public concerts in Geneva and in Switzerland.

The Foundation of the Arquebuse and Navigation Exercises represents five hundred and forty-five years of Geneva's history, a fabulous heritage, with the will to keep the traditions that forged our country alive. It was able to approach the turn of the 21st century with dynamism and to succeed in conciliating tradition and modernity. This historical and patriotic company founded in 1474, of which the members practise sport shooting, is maintaining the memory and traditions through its patrimony and its events.

In 2017, it took over the Musical Elite Corps, the official musical band of the Geneva Republic that was doomed to disappear, and it decided to keep it alive.

This is how the Geneva Arquebuse Brass Band was born, a reincarnation of the Musical Elite Corps.

LES AMIS DE SENTINELLES - GENEVE

SENTINELLES 40 ans  
AU SECOURS DE L'INNOCENCE MEURTRE

BRASS BAND  
ARQUEBUSE GENEVE

Direction: Jean-Pierre Chevailler

Concert de soutien  
Victoria Hall

Dimanche 25 octobre 2020, 17h

Entrée libre, collecte en faveur de Sentinelles,  
destinée au secours d'enfants atteints de noma.

www.sentinelles.org

Thanks to this operation, the foundation has its own music available to liven up the various events it organises and it continues to offer various concerts and services to the Geneva population. If you wish to know more about the Arquebuse Brass Band: [www.brassband-arquebuse.ch](http://www.brassband-arquebuse.ch).

SENTINELLES  
TO THE RESCUE OF WOUNDED INNOCENCE

Les Cerisiers, route de Cery 16  
CH-1008 Prilly / Lausanne (Switzerland)  
Tel. +41 21 646 19 46  
f /sentinellesfondation  
info@sentinelles.org, www.sentinelles.org

Banque cantonale vaudoise, 1001 Lausanne: BIC/SWIFT BCVLCH2LXXX  
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