

Press release on Guy Sorman's accusations against Michel Foucault

In *Mon Dictionnaire du Bullshit*, Guy Sorman advances the argument that intellectuals form a privileged caste which uses the protections of its status to escape from the common rule of law. According to Sorman, Foucault was no exception. He asserts that in 1969, he “saw him buying little boys in Tunisia, on the pretext that they had the right to pleasure. He would arrange to meet them at the cemetery in Sidi Bou Saïd and, by moonlight, rape them stretched out on the graves.”

Asked by journalists to clarify these astounding allegations, Sorman has become increasingly evasive and vague. He is no longer sure of having “seen” Foucault “buying” little boys; he is no longer capable of commenting on their age; he did not “see” the cemetery scene, which was just a rumor. As for his meeting with Foucault, which he first situated in 1969, he now claims that it actually took place in 1970, even though Foucault had left Tunisia in the autumn of 1968. Sorman no longer appears to be willing to assume either the responsibility or the consequences of his accusations, which he acknowledges as unverifiable and from which he ultimately appears to have disassociated himself.

The journalists who conducted investigations in the field and among Foucault's acquaintances* found no evidence or testimony to support Sorman's claims. On the contrary, these claims are firmly contradicted by the testimony of the Tunisians who were interviewed, as much in relation to the customs in Sidi Bou Saïd at the time as by Foucault's way of life in Tunisia and his support for the student movement and the police surveillance that it resulted in.

Making such serious allegations and presenting them as facts which ultimately prove to be no more than unsavory insinuations, principally intended to sully the honor and reputation of a person now incapable of defending himself, constitutes a pure and simple defamation.

Daniel Defert, *companion of Michel Foucault*

François Ewald, *assistant to Michel Foucault at the Collège de France*

Anne Thalamy, Sylvie d'Arvisenet, Henri-Paul, Denis et Olivier Fruchaud,
nieces and nephews of Michel Foucault

* The newspapers which carried out investigations are: [Jeune Afrique](#), [L'Express](#), [Der Bund](#), [L'Obs](#).