

Chantal Sebire begs French president for the right to die

From correspondents in Dijon, France Agence France-Presse February 27, 2008 10:06am



Chantal before her illness.

Disfigurement ... 'an animal would not be allowed to endure what I have to endure,' says cancer sufferer Chantal Sebire.

- Tumours make Chantal Sebire's face unrecognisable
- Teacher says disease has led to atrocious suffering

A FRENCH woman badly disfigured by facial tumours caused by a rare and incurable disease has appealed to President Nicolas Sarkozy to allow her to die by euthanasia.

In an interview with the Agence France-Presse news agency, former school teacher Chantal Sebire, 52, begged for the right to end the "atrocious" suffering inflicted on her by the disease which has rendered her face unrecognisable because of growing tumours.

"An animal would not be allowed to endure what I have to endure," she said from her home in Plombieres-les-Dijon in central France, asking French media and Mr Sarkozy to allow her a dignified death.

Euthanasia is illegal in France, unlike in some other European countries such as the Netherlands and Belgium.

Ms Sebire told AFP that she suffered from a very rare disease called esthesioneuroblastoma, which attacks the nasal cavity. It had left her blind and had robbed her of almost all other senses, leaving her in terrible pain.

"In 2000, I lost my sense of smell and taste, and then the tumour evolved and ate into my jaws, before attacking the eye socket. I lost my sight in October last year," she said. The disease caused "atrocious bouts of pain that can last up to four hours at a time".

Pleading to be allowed to die serenely, the mother of three said that only 200 cases of the disease had been reported globally in the last 20 years. Source <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,23283804-2,00.html>

This article was a deciding factor in Christians Supporting Choice for VE co-founder, Ian Wood's decision to take public stand on DWD. He says, "Chantal would not have had to suffer in Switzerland, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg or Oregon, and asks are we so different in France or South Australia?"



Chantal before her illness.

Chantal begs for the right to die!

MPs
We want action now!



Chantal before 8 years of suffering