



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES  
France

*Là où la défense n'a plus la parole*



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# EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

We are very pleased to present you our activities report for the year 2020.

This year has been marked by a particularly difficult economic and social context and has been one of adaptation for Avocats Sans Frontières France.

Despite an unprecedented global health crisis, we have continued to defend the rights of the most vulnerable, wherever in the world it is useful and necessary. The challenges we have had to face have reinforced our ambition to be even more supportive and proactive in the face of current global issues, in particular by developing new areas of work and action, for example on issues related to environmental law or corporate social responsibility.

As you will see in this report, we have been able to adapt in order to maintain our projects for access to law and fair justice in Cambodia, Greece and Nigeria, while implementing new ones in Cameroon and Mali. Once again this year, the rights of women, people deprived of their freedom and asylum seekers were at the heart of our actions. These initiatives would not have been possible without the constant commitment of our volunteers, lawyers and jurists, supported by our team of employees in France and abroad. They have enabled us to maintain our technical expertise and to strengthen the capacity to act and the autonomy of local actors in the defense and promotion of human rights, in the service of the right to a fair trial and human dignity. Their energy and skills are the soul of our association.

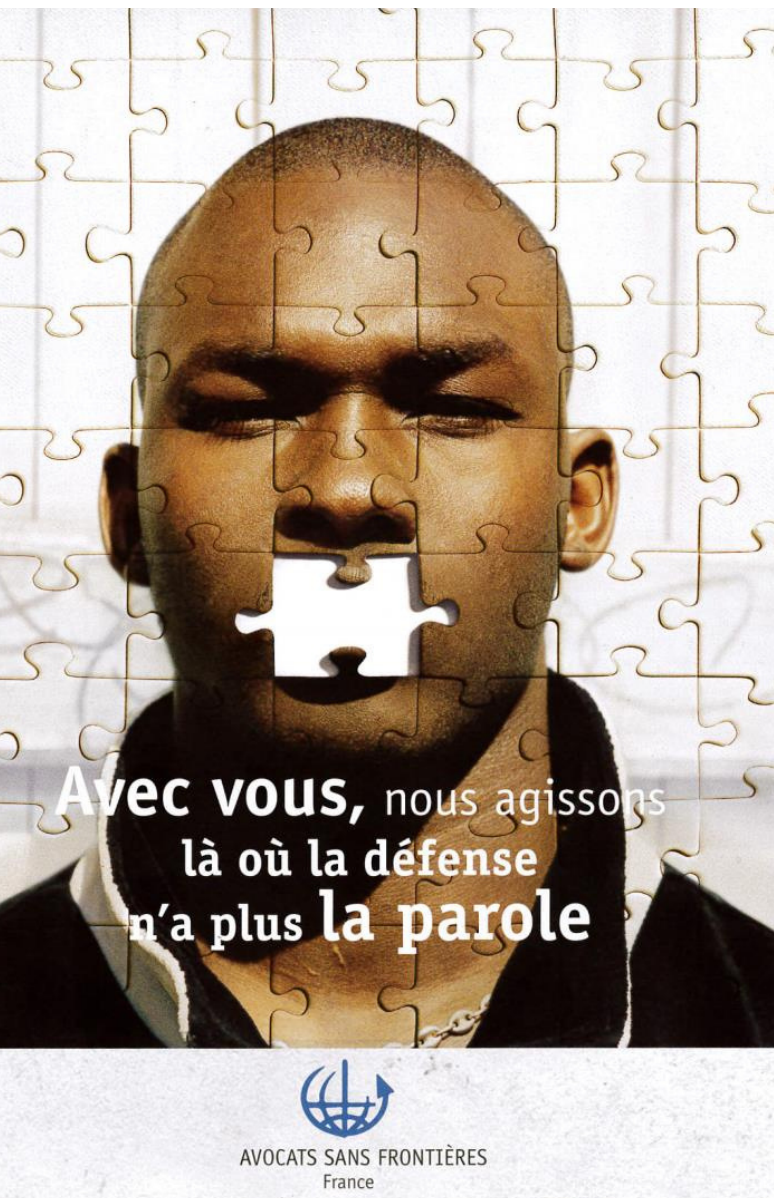
Because together, we are stronger to act "where defense no longer has a voice", a big thank you to all of you. Thank you to the Bar Associations, loyal and historical supporters of ASF France. Whether through subsidies or CDAD operations, the profession, which has not been spared by this pandemic and its consequences, has once again supported us. Thank you to all everyone, volunteers and professionals, who accompany us in our work. Finally, our sincere gratitude to our financial partners, both public and private, whose renewed confidence, a guarantee of our independence, has enabled us to persevere effectively in our mission towards justice and freedom.



**Vincent Fillola**  
Co-Chairman



**Julien Pourquoié Kessas**  
Co-Chairman



Established in 1998, Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France) is an international NGO specialising in defending human rights and access to justice. **Our work is guided by 3 fundamental values** which are at the centre of our actions: **Justice, Solidarity, Liberty.**

## OUR MISSION

### ACT IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE AND FREEDOM

We promote **access to law and fair justice for vulnerable people** who have been denied access to justice or who are arbitrarily detained or tortured. We also defend lawyers and human rights defenders who face threats because of their activism or their profession.

### CONTRIBUTING TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE RULE OF LAW

We intervene all over the world, whenever there is a need to **support the rule of law**, the judicial institution or the right to a fair trial. We always aim to **strengthen local justice and legal actors**, responding to their needs and working alongside them.

## OUR ACTION PLAN

ASF France **defends, on a pro bono basis, any person whose fundamental rights are threatened and who is deprived of a free and independent defence.** We also intervene when a lawyer is subject to pressure related to his or her profession: threats, imprisonment, assassination. Beyond the lawyer's status, it is the citizen who is deprived of defence and therefore of justice.

ASF France aims to **promote the access to law**, which is why we participate in the implementation of legal aid and court systems. In this way, we work to provide the most vulnerable people with the protection of the law

where it does not exist: by providing legal services (itinerant or sedentary consultations), by reinforcing judicial systems, and by providing legal advice.

Finally, ASF France is committed to **strengthening the capacity to act and the autonomy of local actors** in the field of justice and the defence and promotion of human rights. To this end, we provide them with initial and ongoing training adapted to their needs and particular difficulties.



# 1998 - 2020: 22 YEARS OF ACTION FOR A FAIRER WORLD

1998

**Creation of ASF France by François Cantier, attorney-at-law.** Several lawyers, future members of ASF France, took part in the founding of the ASF France movement: "Justice for all in Rwanda", alongside ASF Belgium, by defending the accused and victims of the Rwandan genocide before the courts of that country.

1999

**Legal aid project in Kosovo:** defence of persons prosecuted for crimes against humanity or war crimes, and training of lawyers, judges and prosecutors on new international legal instruments.



2004

**Beginning of the intervention in Nigeria :** fight against the death penalty and for the eradication of torture in places of detention. In 2020, ASF France would extend its intervention to the issues of extrajudicial executions and arbitrary detention.

2006

**Beginning of projects for access to the law in Cambodia :** Installation of lawyers in the country, training of judicial staff, access to justice for the citizens and defence of Khmer Rouge victims before the Extraordinary chambers in the Court of Cambodia (ECT).



2008

**Beginning of collaboration with ASF Mali** for the defence of unjustly detained persons, with training for actors in the penal chain on international human rights protection tools.

2014

**Project to combat homophobia in Cameroon,** allowing for the sensitisation and training of the media, religious authorities and actors in the criminal justice system in the protection of the rights of LGBTI persons, while ensuring the defence of the latter before the national courts.

2015

**Defence of refugees rights in Calais.** In 2019, ASF France creates the Samos Legal Centre in Greece, in order to guarantee the fundamental rights of asylum-seekers.

2016

**Two new projects :** in Chad, for the defence of women and minors in prison and victims of ill-treatment; in Côte d'Ivoire for the support of human rights defenders, harassed or threatened because of their engagement.



2018

**Start of two projects dedicated specifically to women's rights** and gender-based violence, first in the province of Battambang in Cambodia, then in 2019 in Mali.

2020

**ASF France is once again present in Cameroon and Mali,** in order to promote the fundamental rights of people deprived of their liberty and to facilitate their access to justice.

# WOMEN AND MEN IN ASF FRANCE

To define and implement its missions, ASF France relies on a board of directors of 15 people, represented by an executive committee, and a multidisciplinary team of some twenty employees at headquarters and on the field. About a hundred members meet once a year at the general assembly, where about fifty volunteers share their expertise and their time to the service of justice without borders.

## THE BUREAU



**VINCENT  
FILLOLA**  
Co-Chairman



**JULIEN  
POURQUIE-KESSAS**  
Co-Chairman



**MATTHIEU  
BAGARD**  
Secretary-general



**CLAUDINE  
PAGE**  
Treasurer



**PAULINE TUBIANA**  
Assistant Treasurer

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

since novembre 2020

**JULIEN BAREGUWERA**, Lawyer at the Toulouse Bar

**FRANCOISE BASTIEN-RABNER**, Magistrate

**FERDINAND DJAMMEN NZEPA**, Lawyer at the Toulouse Bar

**JULIE FÉVRIER**, Lawyer at the Paris Bar

**PIERRE GOUZENNE**, Magistrat

**THÉRÈSE LEPRÊTRE**, Lawyer at the Paris Bar

**INGRID METTON**, Lawyer at the Paris Bar

**IVAN PANEFF**, Lawyer at the Paris Bar

**ISABELLE SHOENACKER ROSSI**, Lawyer at the Tarn and Garonne Bar

**FABIENNE TRUSSES**, Lawyer at the Tarbes Bar

## HEADQUARTERS TEAM

**ANNE LUTUN**

Executive Director

**ELENA MAGONI**

Fund Development Manager

**ALEXANDRE CROIZIERS DE  
LACVIVIER**

Administrative and Financial  
Manager

**CHLOÉ LARCHER**

Communication Officer

**LUCIE TEIXEIRA**

**ALICIA CABERO**

Replaced in August 2020 by:

**CHRISTOPHE VINCENT**

Project Officers

**ORIANE ETCHETTO**

**JEANNE DILESEIGRES**

Direction Assistants

**CÉLIA PONGUE**

**RÉANNE MAAFRI**

Communication Assistants

**SILVIA LAZZARINI**

**CLÉLIA LE NEINDRE**

Coordination Assistants

## TEAMS ON THE FIELD

### CAMBODIA

**SAVYUTH KY**

MAJC Project Manager-  
Country Representative

**NITH NITEYANA  
PANG VUTHY**

Lawyers

### CAMEROON

**AUBIN NZALI**

RECAJUD Project  
Manager

**HERVÉ KEUBENG**

Legal and Technical  
Assistant

### GREECE

**BEATRICE CHIOCCOLI**

Replaced in June 2020 by:

**MARIE GRENE**

Samos Project Manager-  
Country Representative

**ALEXIS GALAND**

Legal and Technical  
Assistant

**DIMITRA DOKANARI**

**ALEXANDRA BATSILA**

Replaced in March 2020 by:

**DIMITRA SERAFEIMIDI**

Lawyers

### MALI

**FOUSSEYNI MAIGA**

ProFOTO Project Manager

**KOLA TOGO**

JUGE Project Manager

**OUSMANE SIDIBE**

Logistics and Financial  
Administrator

### NIGERIA

**ANGELA UWANDU UZOMA-  
IWUCHUKWU**

SAFE and ProCAT Project  
Manager - Country  
Representative

**EDUGIE AMIHERE**

ProCAT cases law  
Manager

**DAMIAN DAGA**

Communication Officer

**VALENTINE LAZARUS**

Logistics and Financial  
Administrator

## FINALLY, A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR ENGAGEMENT

Constance ASCIONE LE DRÉAU, Matthieu BAGARD, Julien BAREGUWERA, Françoise BASTIEN-RABNER, Manon BARNEL, Murielle BAUGNIET, Sarah BEBAWY, Pauline BECHIEAU, Tanneguy de BELLESCIZE, Romain BONYCISTERNES, Louise De BRISSON, Odile Mathilde BOUDOU, Alice CHATTÉ, Léa CROS, Marie Laetitia DERRE, Jeanne DILESEIGRES, Hélène DIRIBARNE, Marion DUMONTET, Isabelle DURAND, Marianne FARES, Ana FERNANDEZ-MONTES, Clémence FLAUX, Beatrice FLEURIS, Jean-Pierre GETTI, Gaëlle GIRARDON, Danaé GISSIER

Pierre GOUZENNE, Joëlle GRANDCLEMENT, Yesmine HACHANA, Geneviève ICHARD, Sabrina KELOULI, Nathalie LEBLANC, Thérèse LEPRÊTRE, Catherine MABILLE, Christine MARTINEAU, Carole MENARD, Ingrid METTON, Robin MORA, Henri NAYRAL DE PUYBUSQUE, Jean-Claude NICOD, Sophia NIZARD, Marcelle Denise OMBOMO, Ivan PANEFF, Gaëlle PASQUIER-DE-SOLAN, Manon PLESSE, Romane PLUCHET, Marie REGALDO, François ROGER, Noémie ROUCHY, Hannah TIEFENGABER, Anne VIDAL, Amélie VILLAGEON.



# OUR FINANCIAL PARTNERS

The missions of ASF France would not exist without the constant support of our partners. We are particularly proud of our long-standing partners who have written the history of ASF France with us, but also of those who have joined us more recently: in addition to supporting us financially, they all share our vision and our values.

## INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

- Agence Française de Développement
- Ambassade de France au Cambodge
- Ambassade de France au Mali
- Ambassade de France au Nigéria
- Centre de Crise et de Soutien du ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères
- Fonds de contributions volontaires des Nations Unies pour les victimes de la torture
- Fonds francophone pour les droits de l'Homme « Martine ANSTETT » (FFDH) de l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
- Protocole facultatif se rapportant à la Convention contre la torture et autres peines ou traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants (OPCAT)
- Union européenne

## LAWYERS ASSOCIATIONS

- Conférence Internationale des Barreaux
- Conseil National des Barreaux
- Barreau de Mont-de-Marsan
- Barreau de Paris Solidarité
- Barreau de Pau
- Barreau de Toulouse
- Ordre des Avocats au conseil d'État et à la Cour de cassation
- SCP Cantier & Associés

## PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS & FONDATIONS

- Aid Hoc
- Choose Love
- Fondation Raja-Marcovici
- Fondation Un Monde Par Tous
- Fondation Yo et Anne-Marie Hamoud
- Fondation Pour un Autre Monde
- Good Move Initiatives

## PRIVATE PARTNERS

- Cornell Law School
- CREA2F
- European Communication School Toulouse
- Henkel
- L'Artisan Costumier
- MMA
- OME Toulouse

## TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES

- Conseil Régional de la Haute-Garonne
- Mairie de Toulouse
- Région Occitanie

# OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

To implement its projects, ASF France relies on solid and sustainable partnerships with NGOs and local associations, built around shared convictions.

## CAMBODIA

- Banteay Srei
- Département Provincial des Affaires Féminines de la province de Battambang (DPAF)

## CAMEROON

- Avocats Sans Frontières Cameroun
- Réseau Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme (RECODH)

## GREECE

- DLA Piper
- Samos Volunteers

## MALI

- Avocats Sans Frontières Mali
- Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH) Mali
- Women in Law & Development in Africa (WiLDAF)

## NIGERIA

- National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria (NHRC)
- Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)
- Carmelite Prisoners' Interest Organization (CAPIO)

# COVID-19 : OUR ACTIONS CONTINUE !

In 2020, thanks to the unfailing support of its members, volunteers and donors, its financial and operational partners, and its teams, ASF France was able to maintain its actions to defend the rights of the most vulnerable. Thank you to all of you!

6 826

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES  
OF OUR ACTIONS

7

PROJECTS

11

LOCAL  
PARTNERS

35

FINANCIAL  
PARTNERS

64

## VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

benefited from legal aid assistance in Mali and Cambodia



117

## PERSONS DEPRIVED OF FREEDOM

benefited from legal aid assistance in Nigeria



437

## LOCAL ACTORS

(human rights advocates and CSO) have had their capacities strengthened



621

## ASYLUM-SEEKERS

received direct support during their judicial procedures in Greece







# CAMBODIA

## REACT | Rallying stakeholders for an effective access to justice for Cambodian women and teenagers



626 direct  
beneficiaries  
since the start of  
the project



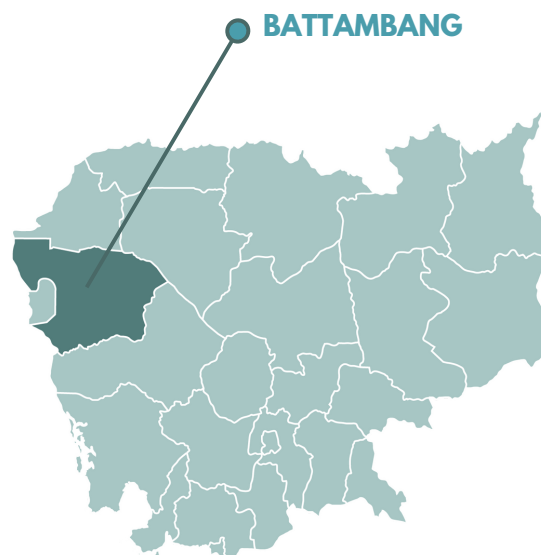
December 2018  
- June 2021



2 local  
partners



7 funders



## PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

In Cambodia, several legal instruments protect the rights of women and girls. However, in practice, the implementation of these laws and policies remains very limited, including in the province of Battambang where many women and girls are victims of gender-based violence (GBV) and have too little access to justice.

The aim of the MAJC project is to promote access to justice for women victims of GBV through adequate care on the one hand, and on the other, to raise awareness in the community about women's rights and the violence they suffer.

To this end, the project operates at different levels - provincial, district and village - and addresses a variety of actors, whether they are actors in the penal chain, associative actors or community members.

This project is part of a partnership with two Cambodian actors: a civil society association, Banteay Srei, and an institutional actor, the Provincial Department of Women's Affairs (DPAF).



## OBJECTIVES

- **Reinforce** the rule of law in Cambodia for a society that protects women and girls rights.
- **Contributing** to the promotion and protection of women's and girls' rights, including their right of access to justice, and the reduction of GBV in Battambang province.



“ Providing legal aid to these women is crucial as many cannot afford to hire a lawyer. Most victims never had access to education and are not able to represent themselves. ”

NITH NITEYANA, LAWYER ON THE REACT PROJECT



“Banteay Srei and ASF France helped me from the beginning to the end of my legal proceedings. When the court said that I had the right to get my daughters back and to divorce, I was so happy. Now that it's all over, I'm committed to trying to find a job so I can have an income to raise my daughters.”

MME A., BENEFICIARY



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

- **44 cases of women or young girls** victims of violations of the rights and/or of GBV, were taken in charge.
- **1 session de reinforcement of the judicial capacities** of the project's partners was organised.
- **5 training courses** of key actors on the community level for the right of access to justice for women and girls victims of violations of their rights and of GBV were conducted.
- **15 community-based workshops** to sensibilise people to women's rights and to GBV were conducted.
- **9 radio programs** to increase awareness about women and girls rights were broadcasted on the National Radio of Battambang.
- **3 roundtables** on access to justice for women took place.

## PERSPECTIVES

- Closing on the cycle of round tables on access to justice for women and girls.
- **Broadcast of programmes of sensibilisation** on women and girls right and on GBV.
- **Legal assistance** for women and girl victims of the violation of their rights and/or of GBV.
- **Sensibilisation to the rights of women and girls** through the distribution of flyers and posters.
- **Closing ceremony** of the project.



# GREECE

## Samos Legal Centre



621 direct  
beneficiaries in  
2020



Since January  
2019



8 funders

SAMOS

### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Europe is in the midst of the largest mass movement of citizens it has seen since the Second World War. Millions of people have made the long, arduous and often dangerous journey to Europe to escape war and poverty in their countries.

Due to its geographical position and the rules of the Dublin Regulations, Greece has been at the front line in terms of arrivals and the responsibility for examining asylum applications. At the end of 2020, more than 14,000 migrants were residing on the Aegean islands, "hotspots" where living conditions are disastrous and regularly denounced by the NGOs present. This is the case on the island of Samos, located opposite the Turkish coast, where more than 8,000 refugees and migrants were residing in 2020, although the camp has capacity for only 650 people.

The complexity of the asylum process, and the every-growing need for legal support to ensure fundamental rights were respected, led ASF France to set up the "Samos Legal Centre" in 2019 to respond to those needs for legal assistance. The team on site ensures that asylum-seekers are informed and supported throughout the different procedures.

### OBJECTIVE

**Contributing** to guarantee the right to seek asylum and to protect the fundamental rights of asylum seekers.

“One of the most problematic things is that many of them do not understand the procedures. This means that they cannot access justice, which is a violation of a very important right. Many don't know the time limits, don't understand what they are waiting for or why they are waiting. We have translators to explain them their rights and the procedures to apply for refugee status.”

DIMITRA DOKANARI, LAWYER AT THE  
SAMOS LEGAL CENTRE



@We Are One



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

- **621 beneficiaries were supported** 226 of whom were women and 379 were people with specific vulnerabilities (victims of torture, of human trafficking or of sexual violence, pregnancies of 7 months or more, new mothers, members of the LGBTQI community).
- **29 cases were supported** with their appeal procedure.
- **28 requests for interim measures** for 40 vulnerable asylum seekers living in extremely poor conditions were submitted to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).
- **16 requests for family reunification** were supported.

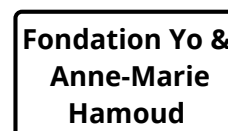
## OBJECTIVES

- **Information and judicial advice** on the asylum procedure and legal support throughout the different steps in the asylum process..
- **Interview preparation** and accompaniment at the main asylum interview.
- **Drafting and submission of cases** before appeals committees.
- **Identification and orientation** for those with particular vulnerabilities.
- **information and advice workshops** about the asylum procedure.
- **Support** with family reunification procedures.
- **Submission** of requests for interim measures before the ECtHR for extremely vulnerable asylum seekers.




“ In March 2020, with the lockdown, we began filing applications for urgent interim measures with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) to urge the Greek government to protect the human rights of the most vulnerable, including pregnant women and newborns. This work has forced me to think about the most basic rights that every woman should have. The right to safety, the right to raise our children in a healthy environment. So many rights are not granted to women living in Samos. For them, pandemic or not, this is a time of crisis. ”


ME OLIVIA CLARK, HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER AT DLA PIPER



# NIGERIA

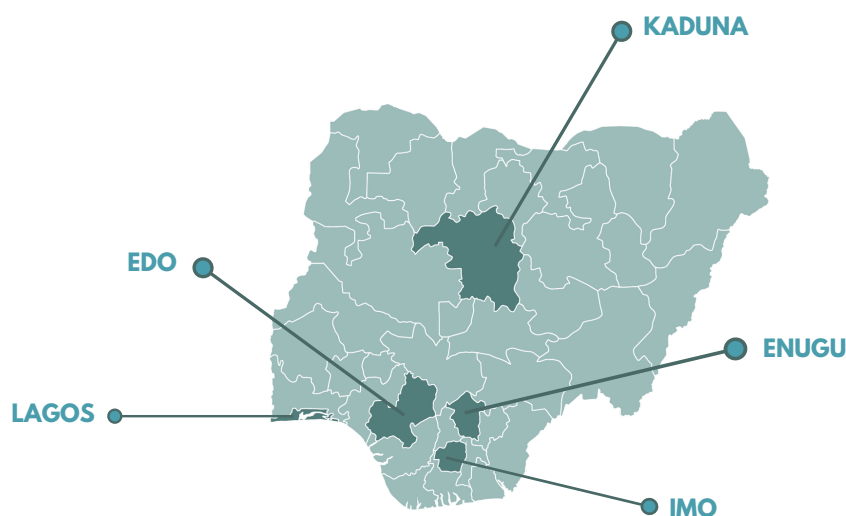
## ProCAT | Fight against torture

 75 direct beneficiaries in 2020

 January 2020 - December 2020

 2 local partners

 2 funders



## PRESENTATION DU PROJET

Although Nigeria ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) in 2001 and enacted a law prohibiting torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatments at the end of 2017, there are many obstacles to its effective implementation. Torture is widespread in Nigeria and is routinely used by security forces during interrogations.

This practice is made possible by a twofold inadequacy: that of access to justice on the one hand and the impunity of the perpetrators on the other. Police violence, arbitrary or abusive detentions, and cruel sentences are not countered either by lawyers or by the population, which is poorly informed of its rights, poorly defended and distrustful of the judicial authorities.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Contributing** to the reduction of torture acts in all the legal chain.
- **Better** the access to justice and to the juridical services for victims of torture.
- **Reinforce** the knowledge and capacities of the legal authorities.
- **Promote** a better knowledge and application of principles of the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).



“ For the past 11 years, 848 victims of torture have been able to access justice for the enforcement of their rights violated by security agencies. Through the partnership with NBA, Legal Aid Council of Nigeria and NHRC, the project can continue to uphold human rights in Nigeria and play a key role in the empowerment and emancipation of CSOs. ”

ANGELA UWANDU UZOMA-IWUCHUKWU, PROCAT PROJECT MANAGER



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

- **pro bono defence** of victims of acts of torture or of bad treatments at different stages of the judicial procedure.
- **75 victims of torture**, 1 of whom is a minor and 7 women, had access to justice.
- **5 liberations under caution** were granted among those cases, allowing a way out of prison.
- **16 cases from precedent cases were finalised with success** and in some cases the tribunal condemned the authors to damages and interests.

## PERSPECTIVES

- **Free legal assistance** to the people victims of torture or of bad treatments on different stages of the judicial procedure.
- **Training of lawyers and journalists** for a better handling of acts of torture in their respective fields.
- **Production and distribution** of a video report on acts of torture to make them visible and identifiable.
- **Organisation of a round table** and meeting with state authorities to raise awareness on the need to respect laws against torture.

“In Nigeria, the use of torture to extract confessions from detainees is institutionalised. It is unfortunate that security agencies, which are supposed to protect citizens, are at the forefront of human rights violations. Seemingly simple or ordinary acts such as making detainees sit on the floor or undressing them are considered cruel, inhuman and degrading. So are more serious acts such as forcing prisoners to look at people who have been beaten to death or shot, or showing them the bodies of prisoners killed in prison.”

EDUGIE AMIHERE, PROCAT CASES LAW MANAGER



United Nations  
Human Rights

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

BARREAU  
DE PARIS  
*Solidarité*  
Fonds de dotation

# NIGERIA

**SAFE** | Strengthening the national actor's capacities and advocating for ending severe violations of human rights



1240 direct beneficiaries in 2020



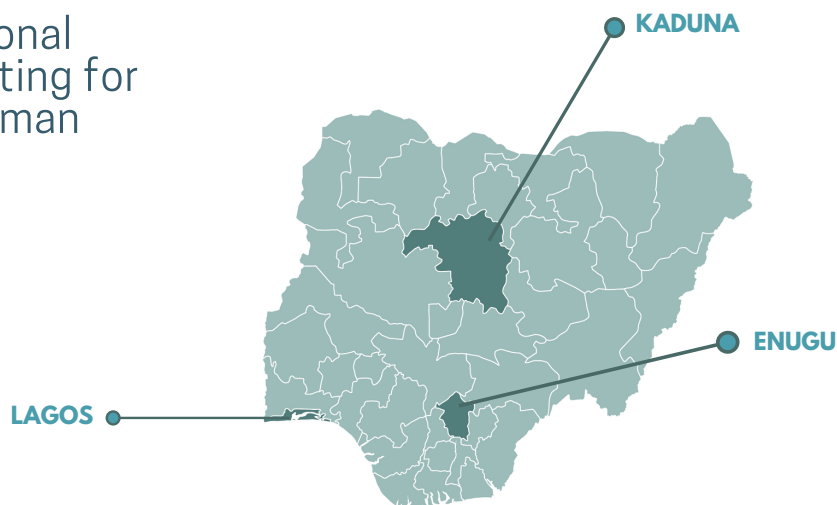
June 2019 - May 2022



2 local partners



2 funders



## PRESENTATION DU PROJET

Torture, ill-treatments, arbitrary detention and extrajudicial executions are common practices by state officials in Nigeria.

Police staff regularly carry out summary executions of persons accused or suspected of crimes, use torture as a primary means of investigation, and carry out extortion on an almost systematic basis. In addition, state security agencies also resort to arbitrary detentions, often justified in the fight against the Boko Haram group, which are also used against human rights defenders, leaders of civil society organisations or journalists, in violation of the national Freedom of Information Act.

“If the police headquarters had granted SAFE a hearing, the End SARS protest might have been avoided. October 2020 marks a turning point in the advocacy against police brutality in Nigeria, which controlled the abuse of power by police officers. The decline in arbitrary arrests and extortion by police officers is to be commended.”

P. AMBROSE EKEROKU OCD.,  
CAPIO PROJECT DIRECTOR OF THE SAFE  
PROJECT

Torture by police officers or other state security services is also a major problem and 'torture chambers', special rooms where suspects are tortured during interrogation, have been identified in police sections in various states. The impunity of these actions leads to a lack of confidence by the Nigerian people in the ability of the police to protect them: they are seen as the enemy of the people.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Reinforce** the capacities of national actors in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of serious human rights violations committed by state security services.
- **Recognise** the responsibility of state security agencies regarding serious human rights violations, and obtain redress for victims through the strengthening of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) pro bono legal aid program.
- **Conduct** advocacy actions aimed at influencing public policies, social attitudes and political processes regarding serious human rights violations by state security agencies.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

- **42 cases of torture, arbitrary detentions or extrajudicial detentions** identified were taken in charge.
- **1 coordination reunion** between the lawyers of the project was organised in order to share their field experiences and to identify innovative approaches.
- **44 security agents** of the State of Lagos and Enugu were trained.
- **44 persons** issued from media and CSOs in the states of Lagos and Enugu were trained.
- **Advocacy visits** and organisation of 2 roundtables in Lagos and Enugu States.
- **1 petition** on an emblematic case was sent to regional and international bodies
- **Development and broadcast of radio jingles** for the International Human Rights Day.
- **Communication actions** on serious human rights violations in Nigeria were launched (press releases, radio interviews, newsletters, etc.).



Carmelite  
Prisoners'  
Interest  
Organization  
(CAPIO)

## PERSPECTIVES

- **Training of police and other state security agencies** on human rights best practice.
- **Capacity building sessions** for CSOs working on human rights and journalists on the use of non-judicial mechanisms, documentation of cases, advocacy, communication and legal monitoring.
- **Legal assistance** by qualified lawyers to litigate cases of serious human rights violations committed by state security agencies before national and regional courts.
- **Petitions** to international human rights bodies on symbolic cases of serious human rights violations.
- **Roundtables** with state security agencies, CSOs, relevant ministries and the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) to exchange best practices and experiences, make recommendations and propose solutions to serious human rights violations.
- **Creation of dialogue spaces** between the police and CSOs to define strategies to improve the respect of human rights by the police.
- **Advocacy actions** with the heads of state security agencies and key actors in the justice system at national and state level
- **Raising awareness** on serious human rights violations committed by state security agencies, the fight against impunity and the rights of victims of such violations.



# NIGERIA

## Training for lawyers on death penalty cases



20 beneficiaries in 2020



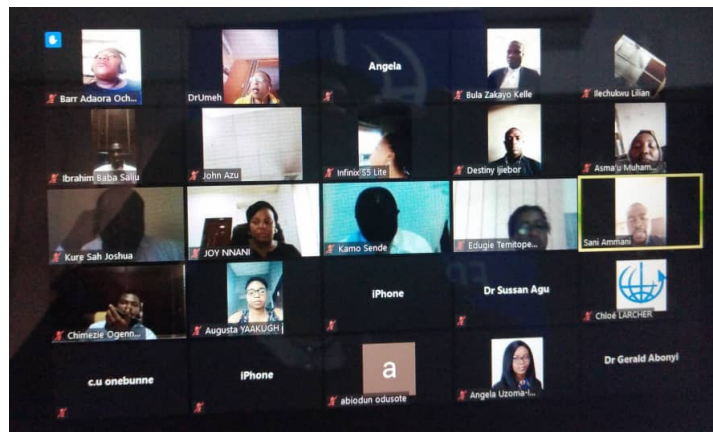
October 7 and 8 2020



1 partner



1 funder



## PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

The two-day training aimed to equip Nigerian lawyers with specific skills to adequately represent death row inmates in Nigeria. It was a unique opportunity to share the knowledge gained from the specialised training received at Cornell University (cascade training) and to foster synergies between lawyers representing death penalty offenders in Nigeria.

It was also an opportunity for ASF France to organise an event on the occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty in 2020 and to raise awareness among Nigerian lawyers on the abolition of the death penalty. In 2020, ASF France organised a virtual training course to adapt to the health context linked to the Covid-19 pandemic. This training enabled lawyers from six Nigerian states to be trained.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

- **20 lawyers** (10 women et 10 men) representing those facing the death penalty in Nigeria have been trained in specific skills to better represent their clients.
- **1 press release** was published
- **1 network of Nigerian alumni** of the Makwanyane Institute and other lawyers representing those facing the death penalty has been formed.
- **1 webinar** was organised to discuss the death penalty in Nigeria and in other jurisdictions such as the USA, Malawi and Cameroon.

## OBJECTIVE

**Give** Nigerian lawyers specific capacities in order to better represent the people risking the death penalty in Nigeria.

## PERSPECTIVES

- **Reproduce this training** in person in order to encourage exchanges and interactions.
- **Implement** the training in other Nigerian states to reach more lawyers.
- **Include judges** in the training.



**Cornell Law School**  
Cornell Center on the  
Death Penalty Worldwide



**AMBASSADE  
DE FRANCE  
AU NIGÉRIA**  
*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



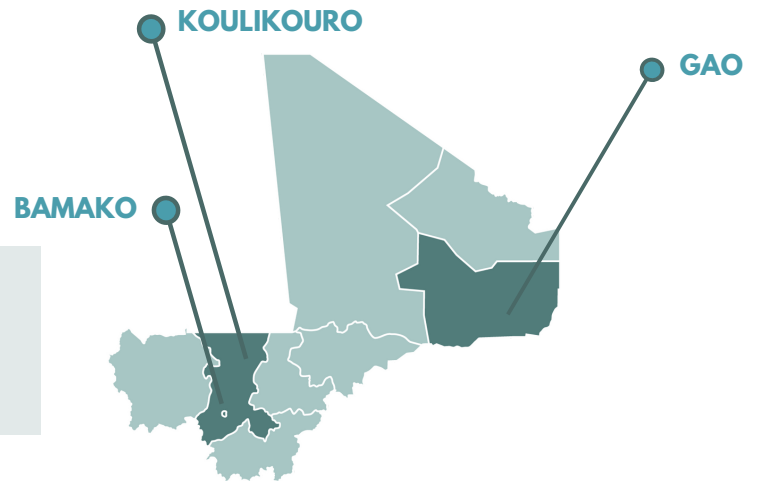




# MALI

## JUGE | Justice for survivors of gender-based violence

			
4 160 direct beneficiaries in 2020	February 2020-February 2022	2 local partners	1 funder



### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Since January 2012, Mali has been affected by a multidimensional crisis that is political, institutional, security, humanitarian, identity-based, territorial and socio-cultural. In this context, which is as disturbed as it is complex, Mali has become a place where the rule of law has been replaced by the law of the strongest: a threatened integrity, a military coup d'état and serious human rights violations. The security situation has deteriorated sharply, with a significant increase in serious human rights violations to the detriment of the most vulnerable populations.

This observation echoes the fate of Malian women in the country, who are massively victims of physical violence committed in the domestic and public sphere, sexual violence in the form of assault, mutilation or forced marriage, and psychological violence. Gender-based violence (GBV) is systemic and culturally embedded in Mali. According to EDSM-VI 2018 (Enquête Démographique et de Santé-Mali, 2018), half of women (49%) aged 15-49 in union or in a broken union have experienced emotional, psychological, physical and sexual violence at any time in their lives.

“ We have been fighting this scourge for years on the field. We can only thank WiLDAF and welcome the JUGE project with open arms. This training has brought us a lot and the trainer was exceptional. ”

**SAIMA MAIGA - 3RD DEPUTY MAYOR IN GOUNZOUREYE (GAO) AND PARTICIPANT OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERS TRAINING**





## OBJECTIVES

- **Support** women survivors of GBV to benefit from a holistic and adequate management of their case leading to the conviction of the alleged perpetrators and the reparation of their harm.
- **Conduct** advocacy, monitoring and awareness-raising activities to influence public policies and social attitudes regarding the respect of women's rights and GBV.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

- **15 members of ASF Mali and of WiLDAF** were guided on the training techniques about GBV.
- **17 actors of the penal chain and doctors** in the field of GBV were trained.
- **45 paralegals et 46 community leaders** reinforced their capacities in the field of GBV.
- **20 cases of GBV** were identified and taken care of.
- **23 members of ASF Mali and of WiLDAF** reinforced their capacities on the use of media.
- **3994 persons** (2319 women and 1675 men) have been made aware on the subject of GBV.

## PERSPECTIVES

- **Second capacity building session** for ASF Mali and WiLDAF members on GBV training techniques.
- **Training** of the actors of the penal chain, of doctors and lawyers with regards to GBV.
- **Holistic management** of identified cases of GBV.
- **Promotion of a pro bono assistance** of lawyers.
- **Advocacy actions** afin in order to reinforce the legal frame by the adoption of a text incriminating GBV.
- **Raising the awareness of the populations** and especially that of women in the field of GBV.



“The goal of the capacity building for the members of ASF Mali and WiLDAF is to enable them to provide training for actors in the penal chain and doctors in the communes of Gao and Koulikoro, where we cannot go for security reasons. In the long term, we aim at our partners to be autonomous in conducting training on GBV and SGBV or other topics..”

FRANÇOISE BASTIEN-RABNER, MAGISTRATE ET REFEREE OF THE JUGE EXPERTISE POLE



# MALI

## ProFOTO | Promotion of the fundamental rights of detainees and application of legal instruments for the prevention of torture in Mali



November 2020  
- June 2021



2 local  
partners



2 funders

### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

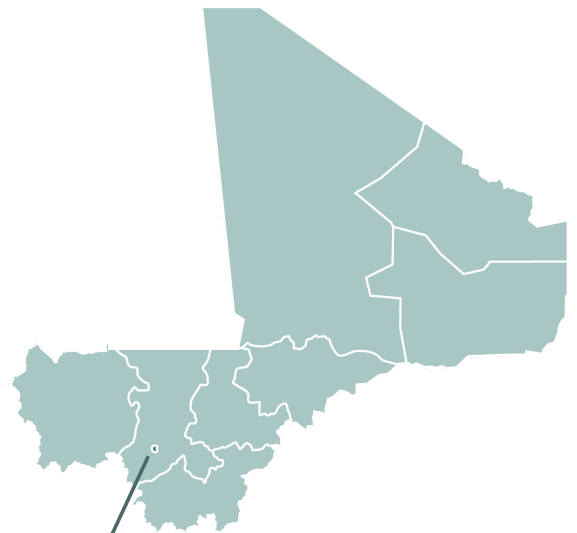
The Malian prison system faces many challenges: prison overcrowding, lack of separation of prisoners by category, imperfect security arrangements, insufficient staff training, lack of control over the length and conditions of detention of persons deprived of their liberty, and an ineffective reintegration policy. This situation is conducive to the development of inappropriate behaviour to the detriment of detainees, even though the 59 penitentiary centres in Mali are experiencing an almost constant deterioration, accentuated by the multidimensional crisis that has persisted since 2012.

Upstream, the police and gendarmerie forces are also confronted with a drastic lack of resources and a lack of training, which can lead in some cases to acts of torture and ill-treatments of suspects. The latter are often deprived of their liberty beyond the legal time limits, in undignified conditions, even though the "religion of confession" can lead to reprehensible practices.



“Detention process in Mali is a rocky road. People in detention are considered as "sub-humans" who do not deserve any particular attention. Reminding the actors in the penal chain, as well as the authorities, of the rights of people in detention is the best way to guarantee a minimum of dignity in our prisons and to prevent acts of torture.”

FOUSSEYNI MAIGA, PROFOTO PROJECT MANAGER



BAMAKO

### OBJECTIVE

**Promote** better knowledge and application of torture prevention mechanisms through capacity building of actors in the penal chain and advocacy for the prevention of torture in places of deprivation of liberty.





## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

Meetings with the partners du of the project and with local authorities.

## PERSPECTIVES

- **Organisation of training sessions** à directed towards the actors of the penal chain, the police and the prison staff in order to prevent acts of torture and other punishments or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments.
- **Advocacy meetings** with political decision-makers and organisation of a round table to encourage the Malian state to fulfil its obligations to prevent torture.
- **Capacity building** of the members of the CNDH on the conduct of visits in places of detention, torture and investigation as well as reporting methods.



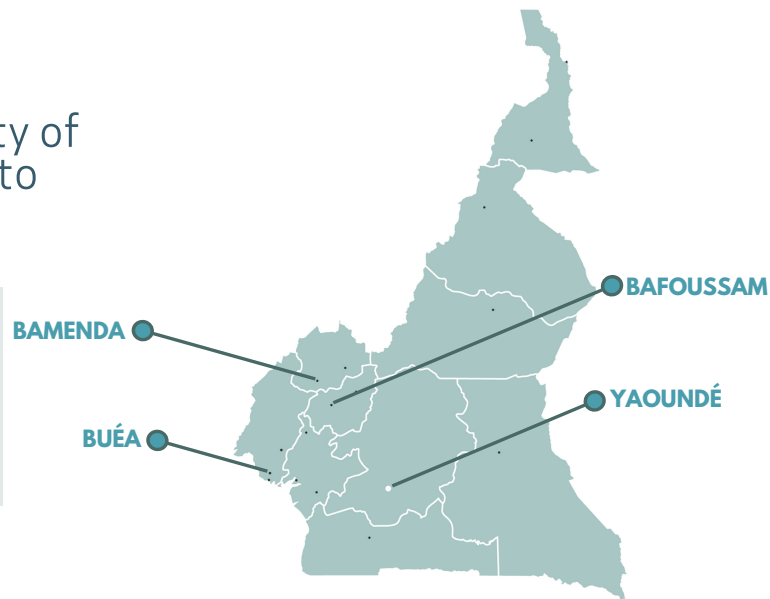
“The issue of ill-treatments in prisons is one of the key human rights struggles. If we claim to be human rights organisations and we cannot do anything to stop this scourge, we lose our raison d'être. The fundamental issue is even more complex in the prison environment because it is a world of silence, where few people go. They are the forgotten people of democracy.”

SEYDOU DOUMBIA, PRESIDENT OF ASF  
MALI



# CAMEROON

## RECAJUD | Strengthening the capacity of Cameroonian civil society for access to Justice for persons in detention



## PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Prison overcrowding is a major challenge in Cameroon. This worrying situation is linked to the narrowness of the premises, the high number of detainees, the slowness of procedures and the increased repression by the prosecuting authorities. In order to fight against prison overcrowding and poor detention conditions, Law 2016-7 of July 12, 2016 introduced alternative sentences in the Cameroonian Penal Code. The Minister of Justice, Laurent Eso, highlighted the role of alternative sentences in relieving prison overcrowding, but also in supporting prisoners towards reintegration and re-socialisation. However, Article 26, relating to community service, refers the definition of their implementation

conditions to a additional text that was not yet enacted. La loi est donc inapplicable dans les faits.

In this context, the situation of the most vulnerable - notably the LGBTI community, women and minors - is concerning. Indeed, they are the first categories of population to suffer the setbacks of overcrowding and difficult prison conditions. They are generally unaware of their rights and assume that their living conditions are in line with their status as prisoners.



“We are here to plead and to sing a symphony with the partners, the Senate, the administrations, the National Human Rights Commission, so that the executive branch speeds up the procedure for preparing this application text which will enable the effective application of alternative sentences.”

JOSEPH D. ZEBAZE, COORDINATOR OF RECODH



## OBJECTIVES

- **Bring** an efficient legal assistance to the prisoners, especially the people that are in a situation of vulnerability, by members of the penal chain who are trained adequately.
- **Reopen** the dialogue about the efficient application of alternative sentences between different actors intervening in the protection of the rights of people deprived of freedom.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

- **83 actors of the penal chain** were trained to the rules that guarantee the rights of people deprived of freedom.
- **Campaign of awareness** about the rights of people deprived of freedom with the organisation of educative chit chats and the recording of radio programs.

## PERSPECTIVES

- **Juridical consultations in prisons and legal assistance** for the most vulnerable prisoners.
- **Advocacy actions** pour for the application of alternative sentences through meetings with political decision-maker, the organisation of round tables and the conduct of a local seminar.
- **Continuation of the awareness campaign** with the populations about the rights of people deprived of freedom.

“ We encourage the government to sign the implementation decree on alternative sentencing. Our prisons are overcrowded, it is time for Cameroon to be a country of human rights. I am very satisfied with this training where we were able to share information between actors of the penal chain. By evolving together, we can make Cameroon's justice system free of any vice.

PAULINE MAFO BOUGANG, LAWYER IN BAFOUSSAM, MEMBER OF D'ASF CAMEROON, PARTICIPANT OF A CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING SESSION



# EVENTS

## JANUARY

### LE TRIBUNAL DU RIRE

Organised by a group of students from the event organisation and management course (OME) in Toulouse, the Tribunal du Rire brought together 5 comedians from Toulouse on the stage of the Brique Rouge: Clément Bonpoil, Avoccha, Fanny Wolff, Yassir BNF and Tom Baldetti.

A great moment of conviviality and laughter! All the funds raised were donated to the association.

We thank the students and their teachers for their commitment and the artists for their performance and support.



## SEPTEMBER

### GATHERING FOR OUR COLLEAGUES

"We will no longer remain silent, silence is the culprit", declared the President of the Paris Bar.

In September 2020, we were deeply saddened to learn the death in detention of our Turkish colleague Ebru Timtik after a 238-day hunger strike, and the assassination of Monferrier Dorval, President of the Port-au-Prince Bar.

ASF France was present on the steps of the Paris Court to pay them tribute and to demand the immediate release of Nasrin Sotoudeh and Aytac Unsal, both imprisoned.

We express our unwavering support for all lawyers who courageously carry out their mission to serve justice.





# EVENTS

## OCTOBER

### WEBINAR - 18th WORLD DAY AGAINST DEATH PENALTY

"Having access to a lawyer: a matter of life and death". This was the theme of our webinar held on October 9 2020 to mark the 18th World Day against the Death Penalty.

As the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty reminds us, "in a case where capital punishment is possible, the consequences that can arise from a lack of effective legal representation can be nothing less than a difference between life and death". With 5 defence lawyers from Nigeria, Cameroon, Malawi and the United States in attendance, this webinar provided a unique space for discussion on the issue of access to counsel in capital cases.

We were able to count on the friendly participation of Mr. Ketil Karlsen, EU Ambassador to Nigeria and Cornell Law School. This webinar was organised with the support of the French Embassy in Nigeria. The replay is available on our YouTube channel.



## NOVEMBER

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The General Assembly of ASF France took place on November 7 2020, during which a new Board of Directors was elected. It is now composed of: Matthieu Bagard, Julien Bareguwera, Françoise Bastien-Rabner, Ferdinand Djammen Nzepa, Julie Février, Vincent Fillola, Pierre Gouzenne, Thérèse Leprêtre, Ingrid Metton, Claudine Page, Ivan Paneff, Julien Pourquoié-Kessas, Isabelle Schoenacker Rossi, Fabienne Trusses and Pauline Tubiana.

The trust in our co-presidents was renewed during the elections and we therefore welcome back Julien Pourquoié-Kessas and Vincent Fillola as co-presidents for a new three-year mandate. Matthieu Bagard was once again appointed as Secretary General of the association. Claudine Page and Pauline Tubiana have been appointed treasurer and deputy treasurer respectively.

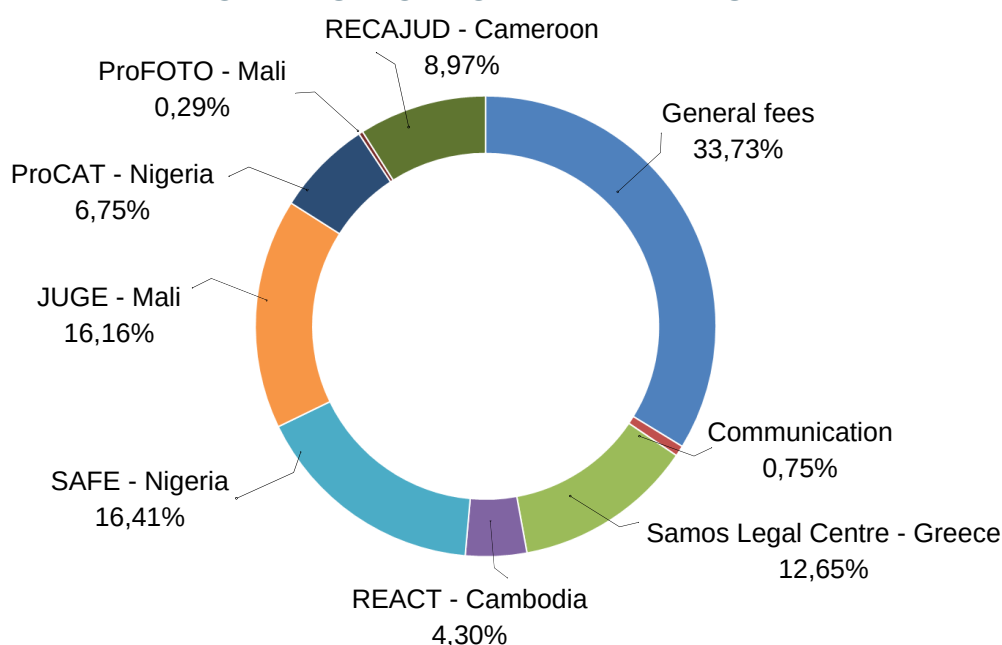
# FINANCIAL REPORT

The governance of the association is funded on two key principles :

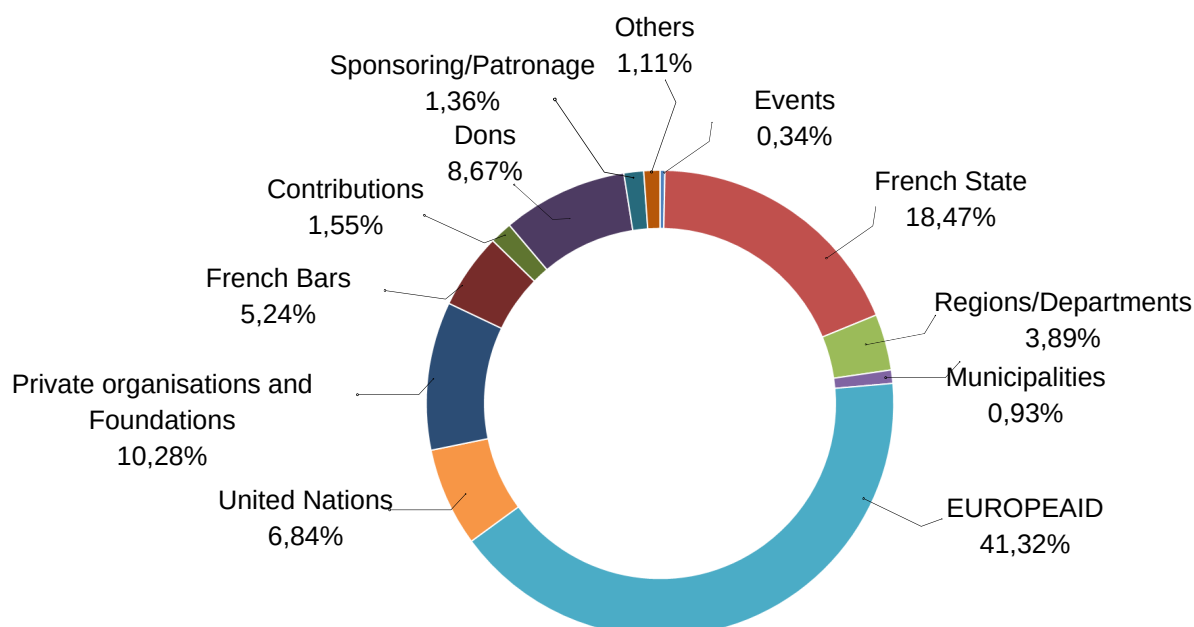
- **Independence** : ASF France is an independent association, both in terms of its philosophy of action and in terms of its means of action.
- **Financial disclosure** : ASF France guarantees its members and all the entities with which it has a relation, the transparency of its actions, of the finances and of the association's accounts. It is committed to strict compliance with the accounting and management rules in force. Since its creation, its accounts have been subject to an annual independent audit and certification, which results are accessible. In addition, the association establishes the principle of internal management control, regular independent evaluation and external audit in its various actions.

Budget variation between 2019 and 2020 : + 3,93%

## DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE



## ORIGIN OF FUNDS



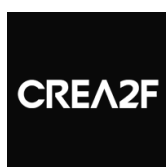
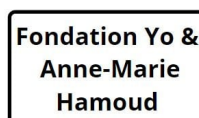
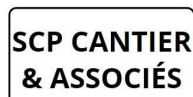


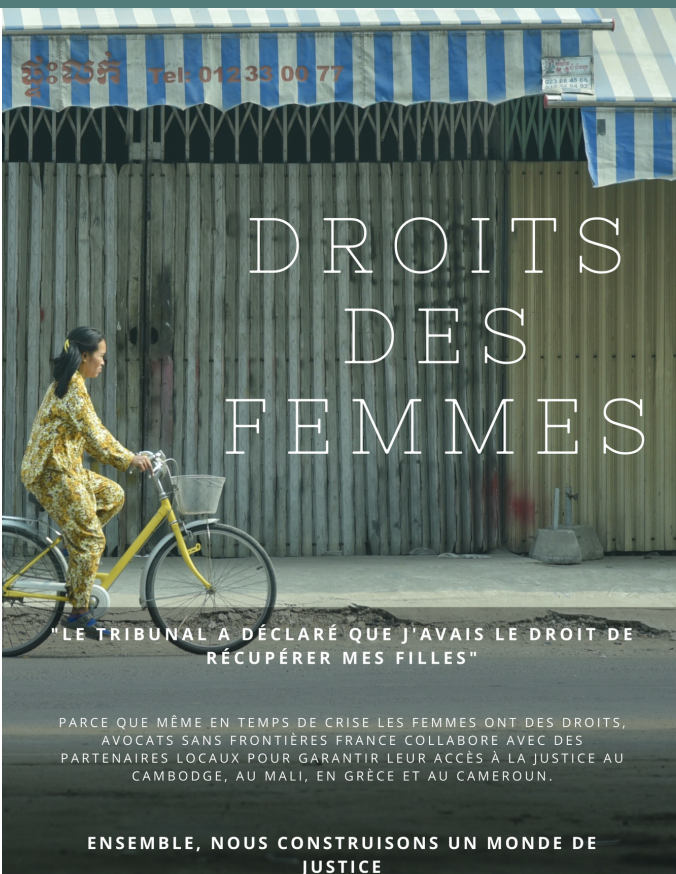
# THEY SUPPORT US

## FUNDERS & INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



## PRIVATE SUPPORTS & PATRONAGE





# YOUR DONATION IS ESSENTIEL TO OUR ACTION !

Since its creation, Avocats Sans Frontières France and its partners have provided access to justice for more than 600,000 people. While in 2020 the health crisis has become a social crisis, inequalities are becoming ever more pronounced.

By supporting ASF France, you are helping to protect human rights worldwide. You give us the means to act.

**Thank you for all that you allow us to do !**

## WHAT ARE YOUR DONATIONS USED FOR

Your donations act and contribute to the implementation of :

- Free legal aid for the most vulnerable
- Awareness campaigns and advocacy actions
- Trainings for local actors of the judicial chain



**With the support of its donors, ASF France reinforced the effective implementation of human rights in 17 countries since 1998**

Cambodia  
Cameroon  
Colombia  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Greece  
Kosovo

Laos  
Libya  
Mali  
Nigeria  
DRC  
Russia

Rwanda  
Tanzania  
Tchad  
Tunisia

## ARE YOU AN COMPANY, A FOUNDATION ?

You can support us in different ways, our team is at your disposal to define a personalised partnership with you. Contact Matthias at [developpement@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org](mailto:developpement@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org)

**« Supporting ASF France, it is supporting the fight for the fair causes, those where not only freedom, but sometimes life itself is at stake » ROBERT BADINTER**





# AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES France

*Là où la défense n'a plus la parole*

## TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A WORLD OF JUSTICE!

### I MAKE A DONATION TO ASF FRANCE



Did you know it ? By making a donation to ASF France, you can benefit of a tax relief. Thus : 66% of the amount of your donation can be reduced from your income tax, within the limit of the 20% taxable income.

I want to bring a one-time support

☐ 30 € ☐ 50 € ☐ 100 € ☐ Other amount : .....€

Please enclose a bank or postal check payable to ASF France

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Each Year : ☐ 30 € ☐ 50 € ☐ 100 € ☐ Other amount : .....€

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Please complete the direct debit authorisation form and return it to ASF France, enclosing a bank account number

Name of the holder to be debited.....

Name and address of the Bank : .....

BANK CODE	COUNTER CODE	N° OF THE ACCOUNT	RIB KEY
— — — —	— — — —	— — — — — — — —	— —

First Name and Name or Name of the organism : .....

Address : .....

Postal Code: .....Town: .....

E-mail address : .....

Date : .....

Signature :

Please return this form to ASF France: 13 rue des Fleurs - 31000 TOULOUSE

CUT OUT



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