



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES  
France

*Là où la défense n'a plus la parole*



# EDITO

## Mobilisation and Engagement

Dear friends,

In 2021, ASF France has chosen to remain committed. Resolutely mobilised on the international scene, the association has maintained its actions and developed new projects focused on the Sustainable Development Goals: support for the most vulnerable populations by making gender a key marker of its interventions, development of new partnerships for a holistic handling of cases of fundamental rights violations, and capacity building of civil society on documentation, media coverage or the judiciary of human rights violations.

Despite changes in the health and socio-political contexts of our intervention zones, a movement of increased solidarity towards human rights defenders has been unfolding without interruption.

Partners, beneficiaries or volunteers, your expertise and your words are precious and we thank you for them.



**Vincent Fillola**  
Co-Chairman



**Julien Pourquoié Kessas**  
Co-Chairman

## TESTIMONIES WITHOUT BORDERS

« We heard about you through MSF, and reached out to you for help before our interview. The preparation helped us to understand the asylum process here. The questions you asked us were very similar to the real asylum interview, so we felt prepared. We will just say that you are doing great work here, and you should continue it! »

R. and M. (from Sierra Leone) had been granted refugee status in 2021



« Thanks to the trainers' advice, I now know how to behave with boys and my teachers to avoid rape. I am also able to advise my friends. I encourage ASF France and its partners to multiply these awareness-raising activities and I call on parents to discuss sexuality with their daughters because this could protect many young girls from gender-based violence and rape. »

Safiatou Maïga, student at Kanbaga high school in Mali



« Participating in the Permanences Solidaires is an opportunity for me to contribute to the admirable work of ASF France. These free legal consultations encourage people to seek help and promote access to legal advice. Access to justice should not be hindered by economic considerations. »

Alexandre Ramos, lawyer at the Toulouse Bar





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Created in 1998, Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France) is an international solidarity association that contributes to the **respect of fundamental rights** throughout the world, wherever it is useful and necessary.

Our work is guided by 3 fundamental values which are at the heart of our actions: **Justice, Solidarity, Liberty**.



## OUR 3 MISSIONS

### PROMOTING ACCESS TO LAW AND FAIR JUSTICE

for vulnerable people removed from it, arbitrarily detained or tortured.

### DEFENDING ANYONE DEPRIVED OF A FREE AND INDEPENDENT DEFENCE

as well as human rights defenders threatened or abused in the exercise of their functions.

### STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY TO ACT AND THE AUTONOMY

of local actors in the defence and promotion of human rights (civil society and judicial actors).

## 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 - 2021 : 23 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.

**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).

**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.



**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.



**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**2021**

**Three missions are carried out in Iraqi Kurdistan** and Rojava (Syrian Kurdistan) where nearly 200 French children and 80 French women are currently still detained. **ASF France starts activities in the Republic of Guinea** relating to access to law and support for civil society.

# 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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**MATTHIEU BAGARD**, Lawyer at the Paris Bar (Secretary)

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

**FRANCOISE BASTIEN-RABNER**, Magistrate

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

**PIERRE GOUZENNE**, Magistrate

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

**CLAUDINE PAGE**, Honorary lawyer at the Toulouse Bar and Honorary magistrate (Treasurer)

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**Julien POURQUIE-KESSAS**, Lawyer at the Toulouse Bar (Co-Chairman)

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

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

**PAULINE TUBIANA**, Lawyer at the Paris Bar (Deputy treasurer)

**VINCENT FILLOLA**, Lawyer at the Paris Bar (Co-Chairman)

## THE VOLUNTEERS

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## HEADQUARTERS TEAM

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anne Lutun

### PROJECT OFFICERS

Christophe Vincent

Lucie Teixeira (until June 2021)

Fabienne Reviglio (from June 2021)

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MANAGER

Alexandre Croiziers De Lacvivier

### FUNDRAISING AND PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

Elena Magoni (until July 2021)

Matthias Cougnaud (from July 2021)

### COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Chloé Larcher

### INTERNS

Jeanne Deplace and Mélanie

Canovas (Coordination Assistants),

Réanne Maafri and Cosima Pietri

(Communications Assistants),

Eileen Chaix and Félix Carreiro

(Executive Assistants)

## TEAMS ON THE FIELD

### CAMBODIA

#### REACT PROJECT MANAGER

Savyuth KY

#### LAWYERS

Nith Niteyana

Pang Vuthy

### CAMEROON

#### RECAJUD PROJECT MANAGER

Aubin Nzali

#### FINANCIAL AND LOGISTICS

#### ADMINISTRATOR (FLA)

Hervé Keubeng

### GREECE

#### SAMOS PROJECT MANAGER

Ingrid Ligot (until July 2021)

Bláithín Quigley (from July 2021)

#### LEGAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Bláithín Quigley (until July 2021)

#### LAWYERS

Dimitra Dokanari

Dimitra Serafeimidi

Panagiota Karanika

### GUINEA

#### RESPECT PROJECT MANAGER

Alhassane Souare

#### FLA

Kabinè Toure

### HAITI

#### IMPLIC PROJECT MANAGER

Marc Daly Joassaint

#### COORDINATION ASSISTANT

Misstherly Casseus

### MALI

#### PROFOTO PROJECT MANAGER

Fousseyni Maiga

#### JUGE PROJECT MANAGER

Kola Togo (until April 2021)

Lalé Michel Traoré (March 2021 - July 2021)

Saïfoulaye Saïdou Sidibe (from September 2021)

#### FLA

Ousmane Sidibe

### NIGERIA

#### HEAD OF ASF FRANCE OFFICE IN NIGERIA

Angela Uwandu Uzoma-Iwuchukwu

#### PROCAT PROJECT CASE LAW MANAGER

Edugie Amihere

#### COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Chinedu Christopher Gbulie

#### FLA

Valentine Lazarus

#### LEGAL ASSISTANT

Jovita Membis



# NIGERIA

**Project duration:** June 2019 - May 2022  
**Intervention areas:** Enugu, Kaduna and Lagos States

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

« One day, armed police officers entered my hairdressing salon and arrested me, telling me that an armed robbery had taken place nearby and that I was one of the suspects. They took me by force to the police station, from where I was transferred to the SARS unit where I was heavily tortured and then transferred to Kirikiri prison. I stayed there for 7 years without ever going to court. » Abiodun A., hairdresser in Oyo State and SAFE project beneficiary

### **PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

Torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary detention and extrajudicial executions are common practices by state officials in Nigeria. Police personnel 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 by the fight against Boko Haram, which are also used against human rights defenders, leaders of civil society organisations or journalists, in violation of the national Freedom of Information Act. 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**

**Strengthen** the capacity of national actors to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish serious human rights violations committed by state security agencies.

**Recognise** the responsibility of state security agencies for serious human rights violations, and obtain redress for victims through the strengthening of the Nigerian Bar Association's pro bono legal aid programme.

**Undertake** advocacy to influence public policy, social attitudes and political processes regarding gross human rights violations by state security agencies.





## PERSPECTIVES

**Training** of state security officers in better human rights practices.

**Legal assistance** by qualified lawyers to litigate cases of serious human rights violations committed by the police.

**Petitions** to international human rights bodies on symbolic cases.

**Roundtables** to propose solutions to serious human rights violations.

**Consultation** between the police and CSOs to define strategies to improve the respect of human rights by the police.

**Advocacy** with the heads of state security agencies and key actors in the judicial system.

**Raising awareness** of serious human rights violations committed by the police, the fight against impunity and the rights of victims.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

**50 cases of torture**, arbitrary imprisonment or extrajudicial execution dealt with.

**36 police officers and CSO members** participated in a Situation Room on human rights violations by security agencies.

**101 authorities** met at federal level and 23 at national level (advocacy).

**71 journalists and CSO members** trained to document cases of human rights violations.

**132 members of the police** and other state security agencies trained on human rights best practices.

**174 people** from state security agencies, CSOs, relevant ministries and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) participated in roundtable discussions.

**20 lawyers** participated in the annual coordination and experience sharing meeting.

**Communication activities** on serious human rights violations in Nigeria were disseminated.



## TECHNICAL PARTNERS

The **Nigerian Bar Association** (NBA) is a professional association made up of all registered lawyers at the Nigerian Bar. It has an observer status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and a partnership with many national and international NGOs concerned with human rights, rule of law and good governance in Nigeria and Africa in general.



The **Carmelite Prisoners' Interest Organisation** (CAPIO) was established in 1992 to defend the rights, needs and dignity of prisoners. It promotes true justice through advocacy and promotion to raise awareness of these issues among the general population.



# NIGERIA

**Project duration:** January 2021 - December 2021  
**Intervention areas:** Edo, Enugu, Kaduna, Imo and Lagos States

## ProCAT | Fight against torture

« Most of those arrested, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, are brutalised by the police. Most of the time, they are forced to confess to crimes they did not commit. These confessions are then used against them to convict them in court. » Angela Uwandu Uzoma-Iwuchukwu, Head of ASF France Office in Nigeria

### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

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

This practice is made possible by a double shortcoming: access to justice on the one hand and impunity for 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.



### PERSPECTIVE

**Free legal aid** for victims of torture or ill-treatment at various stages of the judicial process.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

**70 victims of torture** were given access to justice

**16 cases** from previous projects were successfully closed and in some cases the court ordered the perpetrators to pay damages

**75 lawyers** were trained virtually in handling torture cases

**76 journalists** were strengthened to deal with issues related to human rights violations

**40 national authorities** participated in a roundtable discussion on human rights violations and the use of torture by Nigerian security agencies

**1 video** report on the use of torture in Nigeria by security agencies was produced and broadcast.

### OBJECTIVES

**Contribute** to the reduction of torture throughout the judicial chain.

**Improve** access to justice and legal services for victims of torture.

**Strengthen** the knowledge and skills of judicial authorities.

**Promote** a better knowledge and application of the principles of the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

### TECHNICAL PARTNERS

The **National Human Rights Commission** (NHRC) serves as an extrajudicial mechanism that protects the human rights of the Nigerian people. It monitors human rights compliance, assists victims of violations and supports the Nigerian government in the implementation of human rights policies.



The **Nigerian Bar Association** (NBA) is a professional association made up of all lawyers registered with the Nigerian Bar Association. It has an observer status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and a partnership with many national and international NGOs concerned with human rights, rule of law and good governance in Nigeria and Africa in general.



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

« In Mali, GBV is a real scourge: domestic violence, rape, excision, early marriages, as well as violence linked to the armed conflicts in the country. The vast majority of women are in a situation of great cultural and economic vulnerability and have no access to justice. Our actions, carried out with courageous partners, contribute to the fight against impunity, which has been tolerated for too long. » Françoise Bastien-Rabner, Magistrate and volunteer in charge of ASF France projects in Mali

### 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 disturbed and complex context, Mali has become a place where the law of the strongest has replaced the rule of law: integrity threatened, military coup 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.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

**30 members of ASF Mali and WiLDAF** trained on GBV training techniques.

**80 actors of the criminal justice system and doctors** in the field of GBV trained.

**19 lawyers** trained to handle GBV cases

**24 cases of GBV** identified and managed.

**215 students** from 6 training organizations trained on GBV and SGBV

**3124 people** sensitized on GBV.



### 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 damages.

**Conduct** advocacy, monitoring and awareness-raising activities to influence public policies and social attitudes regarding the respect of women's rights and GBV.

### PERSPECTIVES

**Second capacity building session** for ASF Mali and WiLDAF members in Ségou and Mopti on GBV training techniques.

**Training** of actors of the penal chain, doctors and training organisations on GBV and SGBV.

**Holistic management** of identified cases of GBV.

**Promotion** of pro bono assistance from lawyers.

**Strengthening** the legal knowledge of paralegals, journalists and community and religious leaders on GBV and SGBV.

**Advocacy actions** in order to strengthen the legal framework by adopting a text criminalising GBV, and to regulate the paralegal profession.

**Raising awareness** about GBV, particularly among women.

### TECHNICAL PARTNERS

**Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) Mali**, a member of a large pan-African network, is dedicated to promoting and strengthening strategies that link law to development in order to increase women's participation and influence for the emergence of a culture of exercise and respect of women's rights in Africa.



**Avocats Sans Frontières Mali** is a human rights association whose objective is to ensure the defence of public and private freedoms, human and people's rights and the defence of the moral interests and essential principles of the legal profession.





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

« Detention in Mali is akin to an obstacle course. People in detention are considered as "sub-humans" who do not deserve any particular attention. Reminding the actors of 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

### 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 almost constant deterioration, accentuated by the multidimensional crisis that has been going on since 2012. Upstream, the police and gendarmerie forces are also faced with a drastic lack of resources and a lack of training, which in some cases can lead to acts of torture and ill-treatment 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.

### 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 2021

**Organisation of training sessions** for actors in the criminal justice system, law enforcement officials and prison staff to prevent acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

**Advocacy meetings with political decision-makers** and organisation of a round table to encourage the Malian State to fulfil its obligations in terms of torture prevention.

**Capacity building for CNDH members** on conducting visits to places of detention, torture and investigation and reporting techniques.



### TECHNICAL PARTNERS

The **National Human Rights Commission (CNDH)**, created by Law n°2016- 036 of 07 July 2016, is an Independent Administrative Authority. Its main mission is the protection and promotion of human rights and the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.



**Avocats Sans Frontières Mali** is a human rights association whose objective is to ensure the defence of public and private freedoms, human and people's rights and the defence of the moral interests and essential principles of the legal profession.



# CAMEROON

**Project duration:** June 2020 - December 2021  
**Intervention areas:** Bafoussam, Bamenda, Buéa, Yaoundé

## RECAJUD | Capacity building of the Cameroonian civil society for detainees' access to justice

« We meet people who spend 12 years in pre-trial detention for simply not being able to produce a national identity card during a routine police check. The RECAJUD project has enabled 2,600 detention centre residents to have access to a lawyer who has been able to give them the advice they need to defend their case. » Aubin NZALI, RECAJUD Project Manager

### 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 12 July 2016 introduced alternative sentences in the Cameroonian Penal Code. The Minister of Justice, Laurent Easo, highlighted the role of alternative sentences in relieving prison overcrowding, but also in supporting prisoners towards reintegration and resocialisation. However, Article 26, relating to community service, refers the definition of the conditions of application to an additional text that has not yet been promulgated. The law is therefore unenforceable in practice. In this context, the situation of the most vulnerable - notably LGBTI persons, women and minors - is of concern. Indeed, these are the first categories of population to suffer the setbacks of prison 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.



### OBJECTIVES

**Provide** appropriate legal assistance to prisoners, especially those in vulnerable situations, by adequately trained members of the penal chain.

**Reopen** the dialogue on the effective application of alternative sentences between the different actors involved in the protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

**2955 prisoners** received free legal advice.

**91 prisoners** received free legal assistance.

**109 key actors** took part in the round tables for the implementation of alternative sentences.

**82 actors** from the penal chain and the authorities participated in the national colloquium on alternative sentencing.

**453 people** took part in educational talks.

### PERSPECTIVE

**Legal assistance** to the most vulnerable prisoners.

**Advocacy** for the application of alternative sentences with policy makers.

### TECHNICAL PARTNERS

The **Réseau Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme (RECODH)** works for the promotion and protection of human rights and governance. Its members work towards a single goal: the cultivation of human rights in Cameroon.



**Avocats Sans Frontières Cameroon's** mission is to contribute to the effective application of universally recognised human rights, to work wherever necessary for the establishment or restoration of the rule of law, the judicial institution and especially the right to a fair trial and an effective defence.



# GUINEA

**Project duration:** November 2020 - May 2023  
**Intervention areas:** Conakry, Kankan, Kindia, Labé, N'Zérékoré areas

## PARAJ | Support project to strengthen access to justice for the most vulnerable people

« It is a pleasure and an honour for us to work on the PARAJ project. We have a good knowledge of the field, especially of the judicial system as a whole and of court procedures. Working with large international institutions such as ASF France and COGINTA will help our organisation to grow further in managing projects in various forms. » Foromo Frédéric Loua, Executive Director of MDT in Conakry and lawyer at the Guinean Bar

### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Three Legal Clinics (CJ) were set up by civil society, in particular the Guinean Organisation for the Defence of Human and Citizen's Rights (OGDH) and Les Mêmes Droits pour Tous (MDT), in Conakry and N'Zérékoré in 2015, and Kankan in 2017. Their mission is to provide free legal aid services and improve access to justice in these localities. However, due to a lack of human and material resources, these clinics are unable to meet the growing demand for legal aid from the increasingly overcrowded courts and prisons.

In addition, political instability and the COVID-19 pandemic have created additional pressure on prisons and vulnerable inmates.

Finally, there is no coordination between these Legal Clinics and the local justice actions of the Maisons de Justice (MJ) under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice. Thus, PARAJ aims to perpetuate the actions of the Legal Clinics and the Houses of Justice, and to strengthen their links, in order to guarantee a more effective, holistic and inclusive concept of community justice, and to allow for a greater geographical coverage.



### OBJECTIVE

**Support** CSOs in consolidating the rule of law by strengthening access to justice for vulnerable people and combating impunity in the Republic of Guinea.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

**Technical support** for the elaboration of a manual on the management of free legal aid for the most vulnerable people.

**Assessment of the training needs** of community justice actors.

**Development of a training plan** based on the specific needs of each target audience.

### PERSPECTIVES

**Training activities** for local legal actors on the human rights necessary to support vulnerable people and mastering techniques for receiving the public.

### TECHNICAL PARTNERS

**COGINTA** is an international organisation specialising in security and judicial governance, social cohesion and the rule of law.



The **Organisation Guinéenne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen** (OGDH) provides judicial support to victims of serious human rights violations in Guinea, fights against impunity and for national reconciliation.



**Mêmes Droits pour Tous** (MDT) is an NGO for the defence and promotion of human rights that was founded in 2004 by Guinean lawyers and young legal professionals with the aim of fighting against human rights violations in Guinea.





## RESPECT | Reinforcing civil society capacities for an effective enforcement of human rights treaties and conventions

« Using the knowledge gained from the training on the methodology for collecting, analysing and monitoring human rights violations, our platform was able to provide training to the Defence and Security Forces (FDS) and local elected officials on the documentation of human rights violations. The results of the workshop strengthened the collaboration between the FDS and the decentralised services of the Ministry of Justice in the management of cases of human rights violations in Guinea. » Mamadou Kaly Diallo, Young Leaders for Democracy and Development (JDD)

### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

The RESPECT project is the result of a consultation carried out by ASF France with Guinean civil society and the partners supporting it, which made it possible to draw up a precise map of past and current actions, to analyse the expertise and needs of civil society organisations (CSOs) and thus to identify specific needs. This process led to the definition of an intervention strategy to allow a precise knowledge of the evolution of human rights and to support civil society and achieve significant changes in the respect of human rights by the State. This project also echoes a human rights agenda punctuated by heightened political tensions and Guinea's UPR, which began in January 2020. Through the establishment of joint trainings for CSOs acting in isolation, the CSO network will be strengthened in its technical skills, visibility and impact on the population and stakeholders.



### OBJECTIVES

**Ensure** close monitoring of human rights violations in Guinea in a context weakened by a political crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Set up** a monitoring and analysis of the evolution of the human rights situation in Guinea aggravated by the pandemic.

**Strengthen** the capacities of Guinean civil society in research and advocacy with national, international and UN authorities.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

**60 Guinean CSOs** trained on their capacity to identify, analyse and respond to human rights violations, totalling 120 trainees over four training sessions, including 39 female participants.

**25 jurists, paralegals, lawyers and magistrates** from Guinean civil society trained on the effective defence of human rights before the courts and competent authorities in the Republic of Guinea.

**Several meetings and exchanges** with Guinean human rights defenders on issues related to the coup d'état of 5 September 2021 and those related to civil and political rights and access to justice in Guinea. By conducting these exchanges, which will continue into 2022, ASF France plans to produce several detailed studies and analyses of the human rights situation in Guinea.

### PERSPECTIVES

**Capacity building of 125 human rights defenders** representing 63 civil society organisations.

**Accurate monitoring and documentation** of human rights developments in the country, including the dissemination and publication of specific studies and analyses.

# GUINEA

Project duration: October 2021 - April 2022  
Intervention areas: Conakry, Kankan et N'Zérékoré

## Fight against GBV

« In Guinea, we have a well-developed legislation on women's rights. One of the biggest challenges is the judicialization of cases, especially rape and female genital mutilation (FGM), which is difficult due to the pressure that GBV victims face from society and the community, as these cases are often perpetrated by a close relative. A second challenge is the absence of a mechanism to take care of GBV victims at the state level, even though victims are often vulnerable people who do not have the resources to pay for legal and medical expenses, etc. It is therefore the NGOs that play this role and offer reception mechanisms and legal, medical and psychological support. » Alseny Sall, OGDH spokesperson

### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Worldwide, 35% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once from an intimate partner, or sexual violence from another person. This figure does not include sexual harassment (according to UN Women). In the Republic of Guinea, real progress has been made on women's rights and gender equality through programmes and projects implemented by the government, development partners, NGOs and feminist civil society organisations. However, these face many institutional and socio-cultural obstacles. The situation of women is still marked by limited access to social services and productive resources, limited participation in decision-making processes at all levels and little recognition of their rights. According to the 2017 National GBV Survey report, 80.2% of women aged 15-64 have experienced emotional, psychological, physical or sexual violence at least once at any time in their lives. Thus, the project to fight GBV in Guinea proposes capacity building and support to the two partner organizations to ensure the sustainability of their projects by allowing the actors of the penal chain as well as the NGOs for the protection of women's rights to put into practice the knowledge acquired during the trainings and to raise awareness in the media about women's rights issues

### PERSPECTIVES

**Training activity** for women's rights NGOs and actors in the criminal justice system to combat sexual crimes and GBV.

**Free legal consultations** for victims of GBV and management of GBV cases.



### OBJECTIVE

**Strengthen** legal and judicial support for victims of GBV.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

**40 journalists and media practitioners**, including 16 women, strengthened their capacity on women's rights during a workshop to popularise a study on the legal and institutional framework of women's rights.

**Management of GBV cases.**



### TECHNICAL PARTNERS

The **Organisation Guinéenne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen** (OGDH) provides judicial support to victims of serious human rights violations in Guinea, fights against impunity and for national reconciliation.



**Mêmes Droits pour Tous** (MDT) is an NGO for the defence and promotion of human rights that was founded in 2004 by Guinean lawyers and young legal professionals with the aim of fighting against human rights violations in Guinea.



# CAMBODIA

Project duration: December 2018 - June 2021

Intervention area: Battambang Province

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

« Banteay Srei and ASF France helped me from the beginning to the end of my court case. When the court said I had the right to get my daughters back and to divorce, I was so happy. Now that it is all over, I am committed to trying to find a job so I can have an income to raise my daughters. » Ms. A, project beneficiary

### 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 appropriate care on the one hand, and to raise community awareness of women's rights and the violence they suffer on the other. To this end, the project intervenes at different levels - at the provincial, district and village levels - and addresses a variety of stakeholders, whether they are actors in the criminal justice system, associations or community members.

### OBJECTIVES

**Strengthen** the rule of law in Cambodia for a society that protects the rights of women and girls.

**Contribute** to the promotion and protection of women's and girls' rights, including their right to access to justice, and to the reduction of GBV in Battambang province.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

**7 cases of women or young girls** who were victims of rights violations and/or GBV were closed.

**2 awareness-raising radio programmes** on women's and girls' rights broadcast on the National Radio in Battambang.

**1 roundtable** on access to justice for women.



### TECHNICAL PARTNERS

**Banteay Srei** is a Cambodian women's NGO that empowers women to improve their political, economic and psychosocial situation by mobilising communities, advocating for gender justice and engaging men in gender equality.

The **Provincial Department of Women's Affairs (DPAF)** is one of the branches of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Battambang that aims to promote gender equality and empower women in Cambodia. The Department acts as a catalyst and advocate to encourage public institutions, civil society and the private sector to integrate gender equality into their policies and programmes, as well as a coordinator and facilitator for gender mainstreaming within the government.





# GREECE

**Project duration:** since January 2019  
**Intervention area:** Samos island

## Samos Legal Centre

« When I met the lawyer, Naya, she explained everything to me and I was able to tell her about the translation mistakes because in the negative decision it seemed that the Greek asylum service did not believe me. Finally, after four months of waiting, Naya told me that I had received international protection. I couldn't believe it... I was so happy. » Lucky, project beneficiary

### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Samos, an island in the Aegean Sea, is located opposite the Turkish coast. Its geographical location makes it one of the main entry points for asylum seekers travelling through Turkey to seek international protection in Europe. In response to the significant lack of legal assistance on the island, ASF France opened the Samos Legal Centre to provide legal support to asylum seekers who are geographically restricted in Samos. With the opening of a new "controlled closed" camp in September 2021, the first of its kind in the EU, many organisations have left Samos, making the Samos Legal Centre one of the only independent legal actors on the island. The team of Greek lawyers and international and community volunteers works in cooperation with local actors and partners to ensure that access to justice and the right to seek asylum is protected.

### PERSPECTIVES

**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.

**Preparation and submission** of applications for reconsideration.

**Submission of requests** for interim measures before the ECtHR for extremely vulnerable asylum seekers.

### OBJECTIVE

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

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

**619 beneficiaries** were supported, including 226 women and 379 people in vulnerable situations (victims of torture, human trafficking or sexual violence, pregnancies over 7 months, new mothers, LGBTQI community).

**34 cases** were supported in their appeal process.

**Follow-up of 28 previous applications for interim measures** for 32 persons, including 25 children, in vulnerable situations were submitted to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

**4 applications for family reunification** were supported.

**25 applications** for reconsideration.

### TECHNICAL PARTNERS

**Samos Volunteers** is a volunteer movement offering asylum seekers informal education, hygiene services and psychosocial support.



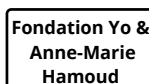
**Refugee Law Clinic Berlin** is a student association offering free and independent legal advice to migrants in Berlin and Samos.



The **International Rescue Committee** is an organisation that responds to the worst humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives.



**Human Rights Lawyer Project** - founded in 2020 in Samos by humanitarian workers - has established a legal referral channel for asylum seekers and refugees who wish to file a complaint or seek legal assistance when they have been victims of a human rights violation.



# HAITI

**Project duration:** March 2020 - March 2023

**Intervention areas:** Artibonite, West (Port-au-Prince area)

## IMPLIC | Implication and participation of actors for the protection of detainees' rights

« *The Haitian judicial system is not spared the institutional weakness that characterises the Haitian public administration. Access to justice is a luxury and thousands of people are detained in irregular conditions, suffering the perverse and irreversible effects of prolonged pre-trial detention. There is also the problem of the quality of legal assistance available. This service is often provided by inexperienced lawyers with very limited resources.* » Marc-Daly Joassaint, IMPLIC Project Manager

### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Prison overcrowding in Haiti leads to inhumane conditions of detention. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, this is mainly due to the high number of arbitrary arrests and the frequent use of preventive detention. In 2021, prolonged pre-trial detention accounted for 82% of detainees at the national level. The legal framework has been enriched in recent years through the ratification of international conventions and treaties on the rights of detainees, the adoption of progressive laws on detention conditions, and the adoption by presidential decree of a new penal code and a new penal procedure code, which should come into force in June 2022. However, dysfunctions persist in the judicial system, notably due to the lack of knowledge and the non-application of the rules of law by the actors in the criminal chain and citizens.

The absence of checks and balances also undermines the establishment of a permanent rule of law: since January 2020, President Jovenel Moïse, who was assassinated in July 2021, has governed by decree. This event further disrupts the already extremely alarming security climate. The current situation of the Covid-19 pandemic has only made the situation worse. These crises are taking place against the backdrop of a growing security crisis. For several months, armed gangs have been taking over parts of the capital, preventing the population from moving around and enjoying their freedom of movement. Also subjecting the population to systemic violence that is beyond the reach of law enforcement and the interim government, insecurity continues to rage with kidnappings becoming more frequent. In addition, Haiti is regularly subject to natural disasters and suffered a particularly destructive earthquake in August 2021.



### OBJECTIVES

**Contribute** to the strengthening of the rule of law and the respect of human rights in Haiti.

**Contribute** to the defence and protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty through the involvement and participation of national actors in Haiti

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

The project started in a very complicated security, political and health context that did not facilitate ASF France's work in Haiti. Preparatory activities were therefore carried out in 2021 so that 2022 would be the year of effective implementation of the project by the dedicated project team and the implementing partner on the ground.

### PERSPECTIVES

**Training sessions for CSOs and human rights defenders** on the defence and protection of the civil and political rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

**Legal assistance activities** for persons deprived of their liberty in order to promote access to the law and to justice for persons deprived of their liberty.

**Training sessions** for actors in the Haitian criminal justice system.

**Production of awareness-raising tools** for the general public with the creation of video clips, plays and artistic exhibitions on the rights of people deprived of their liberty.

**Creation of a sustainable tool:** a guide to good practice for legal assistance actors.

### TECHNICAL PARTNER

The **Collectif d'Avocat-e-s Spécialisé-e-s en Litige Stratégique des Droits Humains (CALSDH)** is a Haitian organisation working for better protection of human rights in Haiti. It aims to bring emblematic cases before national and international courts that can have an impact on society.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021



## MARCH - WOMEN'S WORLD DAY

On the occasion of International Women's Rights Day, ASF France organised the webinar "Women's leadership: for an egalitarian future in the world of COVID-19". With the participation of Michelle Dayan and Valérie Duez-Ruff, respectively President and Secretary General of Lawyers4Women (L4W), Stéphanie Lamy, researcher at Sciences Po Toulouse and civil rights defender, co-founder of the association Danaïdes, and Isabelle Durand, volunteer expert on ASF France projects in Mali.

## AUGUST - ASF FRANCE IS MOVING!

This summer, ASF France has moved! We are pleased to announce that ASF France's head office team is now located at 13 rue des Fleurs, in the Toulouse Bar Association's premises. We would like to thank the Toulouse Bar Association, Mr. Bâtonnier Pierre Dunac and his team for facilitating this move and for their warm welcome in these new premises.

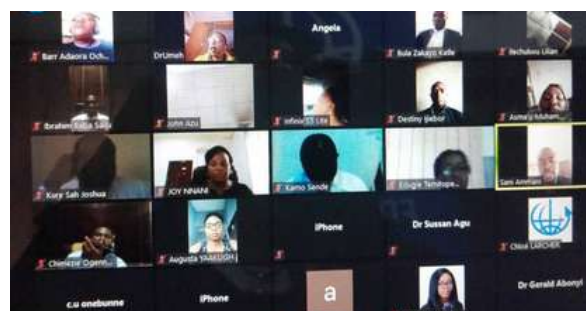


## SEPTEMBER - AFGHANISTAN

In August 2021, twenty years after the overthrow of their regime, the Taliban regained power in Afghanistan. A large number of Afghan citizens have been evacuated to France and are awaiting regularisation of their situation, and many Afghan citizens remain in Afghanistan under the threat of serious violations of their rights. In this context, ASF France is mobilising for the legal protection of Afghan civil society, in particular lawyers, magistrates, human rights defenders and members of civil society involved in the defence of the rights of women, girls and LGBTIQ persons.

## OCTOBER - WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

In commemoration of the World Day against the Death Penalty, the theme of which was "Women sentenced to death, an invisible reality", ASF France organised a training session for death penalty lawyers. The objective of this training was to equip participants with specific skills to adequately represent people facing the death penalty in Nigeria.





## OCTOBER - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On Saturday 2 October, our General Assembly (GA) took place. It was an opportunity for our members to discover the moral and financial reports for 2020, but also and above all to exchange with the teams in the field and members of the expertise centres on the challenges of intervention. Interviews, testimonies and reports punctuated this AGM. It was a great moment of reunion for the active members of ASF France, and of meetings for those who have recently joined us. Thank you to everyone who attended, both on site and by video!



## NOVEMBER - THE TRIBUNAL DU RIRE

After a great success in January 2020, the Tribunal du Rire made its comeback on November 5th at La Brique Rouge in Toulouse: a memorable stand up evening organised by students in Organisation and Event Management (OME) in Toulouse, to the benefit of our association. A great mobilization around a cause that brings us together: to act where the defense no longer has a voice. On behalf of all the people whose rights we protect, thank you to all the artists and volunteers.

## NOVEMBER - PERMANENCES SOLIDAIRES

Collaboration with the Bars and the Conseil Départemental d'Accès au Droit (CDAD) is a major support for ASF France! For the 7th consecutive year, the Toulouse Bar organised a solidarity operation in favour of ASF France, enabling 8704 euros to be collected. The Mont-de-Marsan Bar organised a similar operation on 27 October. We warmly thank the 49 lawyers who chose to donate their fees to our association, Pierre Dunac, President of the Toulouse Bar and Catherine Mattioli-Dumont, President of the Mont-de-Marsan Bar, as well as the CDADs of Haute-Garonne and Landes for their commitment. Let's pool our strengths and take up the challenge of increasing access to law for all in France and throughout the world!



**ASF FRANCE** Webinaire-débat

**DROITS HUMAINS ET ENTREPRISES**  
OÙ EN EST-ON ? OÙ VA-T-ON ?

09 décembre 2021 à 17h (CET)

**Mamadou DIALLO**  
Coordinateur de projets, Action Mines Guinée

**Stéphane BRABANT**  
Avocat Cabinet Trinity International

**Alice NAVARRO**  
Magistrate et Conseillère juridique du Directeur général du Trésor

Modérateur: Matthieu Bagard, Secrétaire Général d'ASF France

Gratuit - inscription obligatoire

## DECEMBER - HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

To mark Human Rights Day on 10 December, ASF France organised the webinar "**Droits humains et Entreprises : où en est-on ? Où va-t-on?**". While the crisis we are going through has accelerated the awareness of companies of the importance of having a solid CSR strategy and moving towards a positive economy, we invited three experts to **débattre sur les enjeux relatifs au respect des droits humains par les entreprises**. A big thank you to our three panelists for the richness of their interventions:

Stéphane Brabant (lawyer at the Paris Bar) on the universalism of applicable principles and the effects of extraterritoriality; Alice Navarro (magistrate) on the law on the duty of vigilance; Mamadou Diallo (Action Mines Guinée) on the impacts of mining on human rights in Guinea

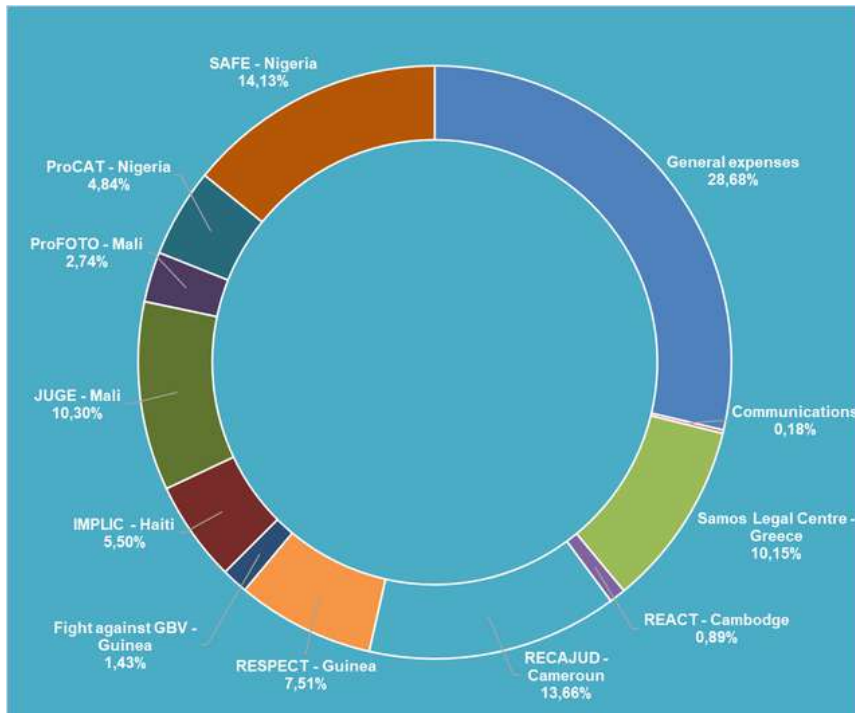
# FINANCIAL REPORT

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

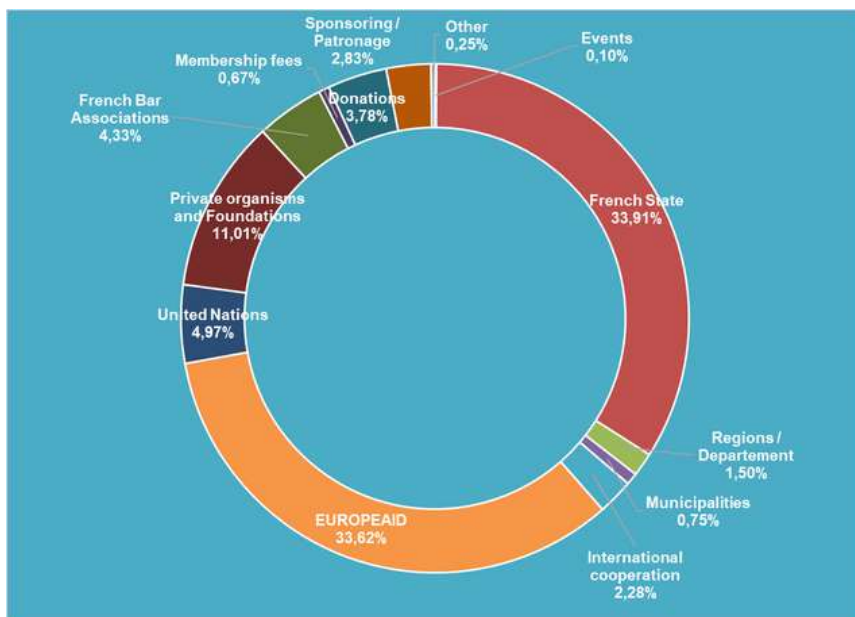
- **Independence:** ASF France is an independent association, both in terms of its philosophy of action and in terms of its means of action.
- **Financial disclosure:** ASF France guarantees its members and all the entities with which it has a relation, the transparency of its actions, of the finances 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 2020 and 2021: + 53,31%**

## DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE 2021



## ORIGIN OF FUNDS 2021



# THEY SUPPORT US

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.

## FUNDERS & INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



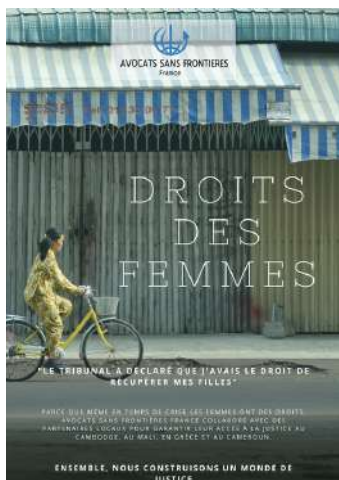
## PRIVATE PARTNERS & PATRONAGE



In 2021 we received the support of the Bar Associations of: Agen, Annecy, l'Ariège, Bastia, Seine Saint Denis, Bourges, Brive, Chambéry, Chartres, Clermont-Ferrand, Colmar, Coutances-Avranches, Dax, Dijon, Grasse, Hauts-De-Seine, Laval, Marseille, Mont-de-Marsan, Nantes, Nîmes, Orléans, Pau, Poitiers, Pyrénées-Orientales, Reims, Rennes, Saint-Brieuc, Saint-Denis La Réunion, Saint-Pierre de La Réunion, Tarn-et-Garonne, Toulouse, Tours, Val d'Oise, Versailles.



## YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR ACTION!



Since its creation, ASF France and its partners have strengthened the effective application of human rights in 25 countries, and provided access to justice for more than 40,000 people. In 2021, the health crisis has become a social crisis, and inequalities are growing. **Help us to remain on the front line to support the most vulnerable!**

Your donations allow us to develop our projects, ensure emergency actions, strengthen our teams, perpetuate our actions, increase our visibility and extend our strategy. By supporting Avocats Sans Frontières France, you contribute to the protection of human rights throughout the world. **You give us the means to act. For all that you allow us to do, thank you!**

## YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION



### 50€

a refugee  
receives legal  
support  
in Samos

### 800€

a day  
of free legal  
consultations in  
a detention  
centre

### 3000€

a woman  
victim of GBV  
receives legal  
aid

### 8500€

20 local legal actors  
are trained in  
the promotion  
and respect of  
human rights

Thanks to its support, ASF France has strengthened the effective implementation of human rights in 25 countries since 1998

## ARE YOU AN COMPANY, A FOUNDATION ?

You can commit to us in different ways, our team is at your disposal to define a personalized partnership with you.

Contact **Matthias Cougnaud**

05 34 31 17 83

developpement@

avocatsansfrontieres-france.org



Benin	Guinea	Peru
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Cameroon	Laos	Senegal
Colombia	Libya	Tanzania
Congo	Mali	Chad
Ivory Coast	Nigeria	Tunisia
Gabon		

« 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**



**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*

I want to provide regular support by direct debit

*From the ..... (JJ/MM/AAAA) I authorise ASF to debit my account:*

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

Each month :  30 €     50 €     100 €     Other amount : .....€

*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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Keep up to date with our latest news!



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France

*Là où la défense n'a plus la parole*