

ASF FRANCE NEWSLETTER

Your quarterly meeting with Avocats Sans Frontières France

FOCUS ON... SAMOS

The ever-changing context of Samos

January 2023 was the busiest winter month for the Legal Centre in the last two years, with **253** new arrivals on the island. Earlier this year, the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum also declared that NGOs would no longer be able to work inside refugee camps in Greece unless they have fulfilled specific registration criteria. NGO staff in Samos were blocked from entering the **CCAC**. These measures have resulted in all recreational and educational activities, as well as primary healthcare, ceasing in the camp in Samos.

Médecins Sans Frontières has negotiated space in the car park outside the CCAC to operate its mobile clinic, but there remains no doctor inside the facility, which has a population of more than **1000** asylum seekers. **ASF France** confirmed that registered Greek lawyers would not be required to fulfill these registration conditions, and could maintain their independence to accompany beneficiaries at asylum interviews.

This accompaniment of asylum seekers is essential in their procedure to obtain asylum as H*, one of our beneficiaries who received international protection in **Greece**, said:

“The interview went well. The waiting was very hard, because I couldn’t work or do anything to distract myself. And I was still in pain, so I was happy when they finally transferred me from Samos, and it helped a lot that you gave me contact information for lawyers where I am now. I’m thankful for the support, it helped me understand exactly what the interview would be like, because the preparation matched the interview questions.”



A workshop organised by the Samos Legal Centre



Making a donation to ASF France is above all helping people who, like us, want to live their lives in safety and with dignity, and enjoy their fundamental rights. Do not hesitate to talk about it around you. Thank you for your support!

THE WORD TO...



ANGELA UWANDU UZOMA-IWUCHUKWU DIRECTOR OF THE ASF FRANCE OFFICE IN NIGERIA

The use of torture by security agencies in Nigeria remains a major criminal justice challenge in Nigeria.

👉 The practice remains widespread despite being prohibited by the Nigerian constitution and criminalised by the **Anti-Torture Act 2017**. Torture is used in particular to punish, intimidate and obtain confessions from criminal suspects.

In the framework of the **ProCAT** project, **Avocats Sans Frontières France** has been working with local partners since **2009** to respond to the needs of victims of torture in **Nigeria**.

On the platform of its **ProCAT** and **SAFE** project, **ASF France** has provided access to justice to more than **1,000** victims of torture across **9** states in Nigeria. The capacities of judicial actors, lawyers, security personnel, doctors and journalists have been trained over the years, with the aim of improving the knowledge based on the international, regional and national legal framework against torture.

With its recent appointment to the Nigerian torture prevention mechanism, the National Committee Against Torture, **ASF France** aims to support the work of torture prevention while continuing to promote the accountability of perpetrators."



OUR PARTNERS AT OUR SIDE!

Charity auction at the EFB

On **November 16th**, at the end of a training session on the legal issues of **NFTs** (Non Fungible Tokens), the Ecole de Formation des Barreaux of the Paris Court of Appeal (**EFB**) organised an auction of **NFTs** to benefit ASF France. In one hour, this operation raised more than **€7,500**.

Many thanks to the director **Gilles ACCOMANDO** and the EFB staff, as well as to the volunteer auctioneer **Romain VERLOMME-FRIED** and the artists!



Do you need information on the different ways to partner with ASF France?

Contact:
Matthias COUGNAUD or
05 34 31 17 83 or at
**developpement@avocat
ssansfrontieres-
france.org**



THE BOTTOM LINE

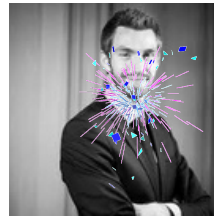


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 - [Afghanistan's independent bar association relaunches its activities in exile from brussels](#)
- ASF France** • [ASF France's wish for this year](#)
- GUINEA** • [The rights of people with disabilities and albinism](#)
 - [Feedback on the RESPECT project](#)
 - [First IMPACT project monitoring workshop](#)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

New year, new president

Since **January 1st 2023**, **Mr. Matthieu Bagard**, Lawyer at the Paris Bar and former General Secretary of ASF France, has occupied the presidency of the association.



Repatriation of French nationals held in camps in north-eastern Syria

On **January 25th 2023**, Mr. Matthieu Bagard was invited on the set of the France Info TV news to talk about the third collective repatriation operation of French nationals detained in the camps of north-eastern Syria. **ASF France** has been involved since **2020** in the repatriation of children and women detained in Rojava, where we went in **2021**.



Solidarity meetings in Bordeaux for the benefit of ASF France

On **January 26th 2023**, the ceremony of greetings from the President of the Bar, **Christine MAZE**, and the Vice President of the Bar, **Pierre FONROUGE**, took place. In addition to a warm welcome, **ASF France** received a cheque for €2,000 from the Bordeaux lawyers who participated in the 'Permanences Solidaires' operation in 2022. Many thanks to them!



75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, **ASF France** organised a screening of the film **FRIDA** followed by a time of exchange and discussion on human rights issues in the world.

It was also an opportunity to exchange views during a **webinar** on the duty of care of companies with experts from Vigo and our association. You can also watch our street interview on our **Youtube channel**.



ASF FRANCE IS ON THE MOVE!

In Samos, our caseworker **Quitterie PINTON** has left her position.

We congratulate our caseworker **Natalia ANDROULAKI** who has become a lawyer.

We welcome our two new caseworkers **Anouck SOUBEYRAN** and **Anaïs TORRES**. We said goodbye to **Panagiota KARANIKA** who was a Greek lawyer for our Samos project and we wish her the best in her professional career.

JOIN US!



By becoming a member, you show your commitment to the defence of fundamental rights and take concrete action to defend human rights!

I JOIN
ASF FRANCE