

DECEMBER 2023

THE SAMOS LEGAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 27th edition of the Samos Legal Centre newsletter!

2023 has been a challenging year for the Samos Legal Centre and especially for the people that the Samos Legal Centre support. The increasing arrivals coupled with the worsening living conditions in the camp have reinforced the urgency and necessity of our mission.

Despite the challenges, our team **never stopped fighting for the fundamental rights of people seeking asylum** at the gates of the EU and will continue to do so in 2024, advocating for justice, dignity, and a better future for those in need.



IN 2024, LET'S STAND
STRONG FOR **SOLIDARITY**
AND CONTINUE OUR
FIGHT FOR **HUMAN**
RIGHTS

As we embark on a new year, the Samos Legal Centre's team extends its heartfelt best wishes to all our supporters, partners, and the resilient individuals we support.

Thank you for your work



Bintou

CASEWORKER VOLUNTEER



Mechi

CASEWORKER VOLUNTEER

As we said goodbye in December to our amazing volunteers Bintou and Mechi, we want to express our deepest gratitude for their exceptional contributions over the past six months.

Bintou's proactive nature, professionalism, and problem-solving mind have left an indelible mark on our organisation. On the other hand, Mechi's delightful personality, humor, and unwavering commitment have created a positive workplace atmosphere, while her autonomy and rigorous approach to work allowed her to earn the trust of the entire team.

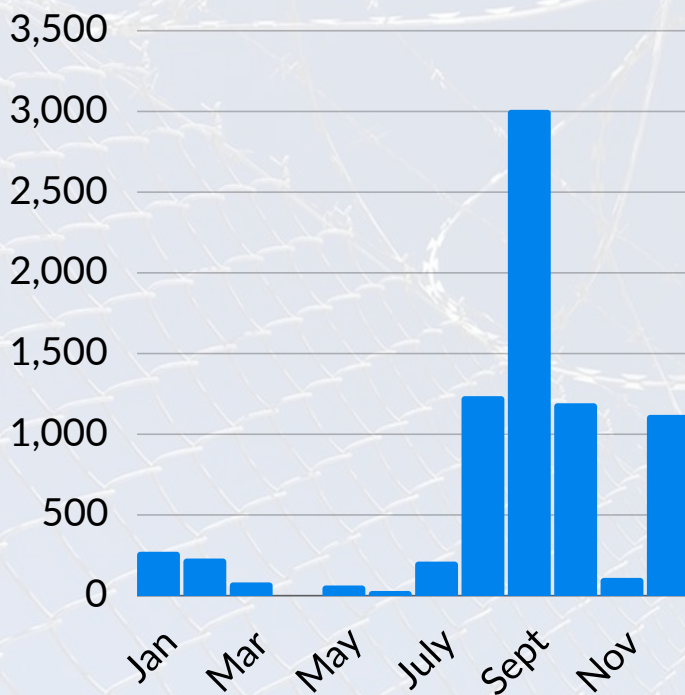
As Mechi embarks on new adventures, we wish her the very best in all her future endeavors and at the same time we are thrilled to welcome Bintou back to the team in January as our new Legal and Technical Assistant. Her comeback represents a promising start to the year, and we look forward to the continued success she will undoubtedly bring to the project.

THANK YOU BINTOU & MECHI

FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING WORK AND DEDICATION!

Numbers of 2023

Numbers of arrivals



The greek refugee context and especially in Samos evolved a lot the past year.

*Indeed, the media spotlight of the tragic shripwreck in June conducted to a limited number of pushbacks from the authorities and a great number of arrivals on the island that led to an occupation number of the **CCAC camp at 200% of its capacity.***

3018 consultations

have been conducted by our team in 2023 (incl. interview prep)

778 refugees

have been directly supported and accompanied in their asylum procedure this year

620

individual preparation for the asylum interview the asylum seeker has to go through during the procedure

171 volunteers

from other associations working with refugees attended our workshops about the greek asylum procedure and the specific context of Samos' camp.



Children*
9%

Women
36%

Men
55%

**Children are impacted by our services towards the family we help.*

+7500

people arrived in 2023

77% of them arrived between August and October.

TESTIMONIES

WHERE ARE YOU FROM ?

T* was born in the United Arab Emirates from Sudanese parents working in the country but spent the rest of her life in Sudan.

In 2023, following the conflict in her country, she reached Samos to look for protection with her Sudanese husband and their two daughters. Some day after their arrival in Greece, she gave birth to their third child.

When seeking asylum, her husband was registered as a Sudanese national, but she was registered by the authorities as a national of the UAE even if she had a Sudanese passport.



During her interview, she had to go through a nationality assessment in order for the State to determine which one of the two countries would be considered as her country of origin. ASFF's lawyer supported her case with a memorandum, in which they included information from verified sources justifying that she could not receive the nationality of UAE, even if she was born there. Indeed, even though the double nationality in UAE was allowed by the law in 2021, T* left the UAE in 2005 and did not have the possibility to apply when she was living there. Since then, she never had any link with the country.

Thankfully, her case was accepted and the State examined her asylum claim as Sudanese national. She and her family **received the refugee status** in December !

Advocacy

*On December 20th, 2023, The european Council and the european parliament found an agreement on the **New european Pact on Migration and Asylum** .*

The measures included in this pact aim to amend European legislation in order to find solutions to the critical situations observed on the ground. However, those directly involved are alarmed by the proposals contained in this legislation. Indeed, some of the legislative proposals have been implemented in Samos and other hotspots over the last few years, with worrying results. In particular, the pact stipulates that the first country of entry will remain the country responsible for the asylum application, thus continuing to place the burden of processing these growing applications on a limited number of countries such as Greece.

The text thus contributes to maintaining a precarious and dehumanising environment for people on the move and to increasing their physical and psychological vulnerability.

Based on the team's observations in the field, ASF France is concerned about the negative repercussions of the implementation of this pact.

As a legal actor promoting respect for human rights, ASF France will continue its commitment to people seeking international protection.

THANK YOU CAROLINE !

In December, we also said goodbye to Caroline Garcia, who had been a Legal and Technical Assistant from May 2023 to December 2023, building on her prior role as a caseworker from April 2022 to June 2022. In Between she had continued to support the project as an expert volunteer doing legal research remotely. To get to know her more, do not hesitate to read her [interview](#) as a caseworker from 2022.

Caroline's dedication, especially during challenging times, was significant in coordinating volunteers, managing legal aspects, and conducting crucial monitoring report research in the past 8 months. Despite the inherent challenges of the asylum procedure, she approached her work with compassion and a profound understanding of the importance of ASF France's intervention on Samos.

Thank you, Caroline, for your remarkable work.
We wish you all the best in your future missions !

