



# ACTIVITY REPORT 2022



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES  
France

*Là où la défense n'a plus la parole*



# Editorial

## COMMITMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

In 2022, Avocats Sans Frontières France pursued its solidarity efforts to strengthen the positive role of civil society, and more specifically of digital media, so that they participate actively in the prevention of conflicts and, more globally, in the consolidation of a sustainable peace.

ASF France's willingness is to go beyond the framework of conflict resolution and repair to cooperate upstream with all civil society actors in order to prevent conflicts, and this is also expressed through its participation in networks for peace and social cohesion that bring together civil society organisations, security forces and communities, acting in synergy to prevent gender-based violence, which remains at the heart of our commitment.

ASF France has continued, thanks to your time and precious expertise, Dear Partners, Dear Volunteers, to act in every place where the voice of vulnerable people was no longer heard, no longer listened to and no longer defended.

A big thanks to all of you for this collective solidarity that is crucial to our actions.



**Matthieu Bagard**

President

## TESTIMONIES SANS FRONTIÈRES



I participate in the Permanences Solidaires because I feel the need to give meaning to my profession after 30 years of practice in Paris and Toulouse. I need to help the most disadvantaged in a humanitarian and humanistic manner and I have always wanted to get involved on an international level.

**Marie Laurence Marchand, lawyer at the Bar Association of Toulouse**



The work we are doing is commendable and is producing quite impressive results in the field.

**Aubin Nzali - RECAJUD Project Manager in Cameroon**



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# CONTENT

[EDITORIAL](#)

PAGE 2

[SUMMARY](#)

PAGE 3

[PRESENTATION](#)

PAGE 4

[OUR HISTORY](#)

PAGE 5

[THE MEN AND WOMEN OF ASF FRANCE](#)

PAGE 6

## OUR PROJECTS



**CAMEROUN**

[RECAJUD](#)

Capacity building of Cameroonian of Cameroonian civil society for access to justice of persons in detention

PAGE 7



**GREECE**

[SAMOS LEGAL CENTRE](#)

PAGE 8



**GUINEA**  
[REVENDIC](#)

Corporate Responsibility and Rights Violations : Natural Environment, Community Rights, Mapping Identification

PAGE 9



**GUINEA**  
[PARAJ](#)

Support project to strengthen access to justice for the most vulnerable people

PAGE 10



**GUINEA**

[RESPECT](#)

Strengthening the capacity of of civil society for the effective implementation of human rights treaties and conventions.

PAGE 11



**GUINEA**

[LUTTE CONTRE LES VBG](#)

PAGE 12



**GUINEA- IVORY COAST**

[IMPACT](#)

Implication of digital media for active prevention of conflicts and tensions

PAGE 13



**HAITI**

[IMPLIC](#)

Involvement and participation of stakeholders in the protection of prisoners' rights

PAGE 14



**MALI**

[JUGE](#)

Justice for survivors of gender-based violence

PAGE 15



**NIGERIA**

[SAFE](#)

Strengthen the capacity of of national actors to advocate for for an end to serious human human rights violations

PAGE 16



**NIGERIA**

[INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SUPPORT DAY OF SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE](#)

PAGE 17



**NIGERIA**

[ProCAT](#)

Fight against torture

PAGE 18

[TRAININGS](#)

PAGE 19

[HIGHLIGHTS 2022](#)

PAGES 20-21

[FINANCIAL REPORT](#)

PAGE 22

[THEY SUPPORT US](#)

PAGES 23-24

[HOW TO SUPPORT US?](#)

PAGE 25

Created in 1998, Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France) is a non-profit international solidarity association, governed by the French law of 1901, which contributes to the respect of fundamental rights. Our work is guided by 3 fundamental values which are at the heart of our actions: **Justice, Solidarity, Freedom.**



## OUR 3 MISSIONS

**PROMOTE ACCESS TO LAW AND FAIR JUSTICE** FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE DEPRIVED FROM IT, ARBITRARILY DETAINED OR TORTURED .

**DEFEND ALL PEOPLE** WITHOUT A FREE AND INDEPENDENT DEFENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS THREATENED OR ABUSED IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR FUNCTIONS .

**STRENGTHEN THE POWER AND EMPOWERMENT** OF LOCAL ACTORS IN THE DEFENCE AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACTORS IN THE PENAL CHAIN).

## OUR ACTION STRATEGY

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, assassinations. Beyond the lawyer's status, it is the citizen who is deprived of defence and therefore of justice. ASF France aims to promote access to law. Therefore, we participate in the implementation of legal aid and judicial systems.

In this perspective, we are working to bring the protection of the law to the most vulnerable people where it does not exist: provision of legal services (itinerant or sedentary consultations), strengthening of judicial systems, raising awareness of the population and judicial actors, etc. Finally, ASF France is committed to strengthening the power 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 offer them basic and advanced trainings adapted to their specific needs.

## OUR WORK IN BRIEF

# 1998 - 2022 : 24 YEARS OF ACTION FOR ACCESS TO LAW

### 1998

**Creation of ASF France by François Cantier.** Several lawyers, future members of ASF France, participated in the founding project of the Avocats Sans Frontières movement, "Justice for all in Rwanda", allowing for the holding of fair trials with the acquittal of hundreds of innocent people and assistance to thousands of victims.

### 1999

**Legal aid system project in Kosovo:** defence of persons prosecuted for crimes against humanity or war crimes, and training of lawyers, judges and prosecutors in 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 extended its intervention to the issues of extrajudicial executions and arbitrary detention.

### 2006

**Access to law projects in Cambodia:** installation of lawyers in Cambodia, training of judicial personnel, access to justice for citizens and defence of Khmer Rouge victims before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).



### 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

**Defending the rights of migrants** in Calais. In 2019, ASF France is setting up the Samos Legal Centre in Greece 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 Ivory Coast for the support of human rights defenders, harassed or threatened because of their commitment.



### 2018

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

### 2021

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

### 2022

**ASF France** is starting a project to strengthen the positive role of civil society, including digital media, in conflict prevention.

# THE MEN AND WOMEN OF 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 in the field. About a hundred members meet once a year at the general assembly, where about fifty volunteers contribute their expertise and time to the service of justice without borders.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**VINCENT FILLOLA**, Lawyer at the Paris Bar (Co-Chair)  
**JULIEN POURQUIE-KESSAS**, Lawyer at the Toulouse Bar (Co-Chair)  
**MATTHIEU BAGARD**, Lawyer at the Paris Bar (Secretary)  
**CLAUDINE PAGE**, Lawyer at the Toulouse Bar and honorary magistrate (Treasurer)  
**PAULINE TUBIANA**, Lawyer at the Paris Bar (Deputy Treasurer)  
**FRANCOIS CANTIER**, Lawyer at the Toulouse Bar (Honorary President)  
**JULIEN BAREGUWERA**, Lawyer at the Toulouse Bar  
**FRANCOISE BASTIEN-RABNER**, magistrate  
**FERDINAND DJAMMEN NZEPA**, Lawyer at the Toulouse Bar  
**JULIE FÉVRIER**, Member of the Paris Bar  
**PIERRE GOUZENNE**, Magistrate  
**THÉRÈSE LEPRÊTRE**, Member of the Paris Bar  
**INGRID METTON**, Member of the Paris Bar  
**IVAN PANEFF**, Member of the Paris Bar  
**ISABELLE SHOENACKER ROSSI**, Member of the Tarn et Garonne Bar  
**FABIENNE TRUSSES NAPROUS**, Member of the Tarbes Bar

## THE VOLUNTEERS

ACKERMANN Julian, BAGARD Matthieu, BALLOUL Raphaël, BARANGER Nicolas, BAREGUWERA Julien, BASTIEN RABNER Françoise, BAUGNIET Murielle, BAULIEU Anne-Laure, BAYO Moussa, BENSUSSAN Jérôme, BOULET Louise, BOUILLAUD-JUANCHICH Marion, CANTIER François, CANTIER-HERRMANN Marie-José, COTTINEAU Clémence, CROS Léa, DESARNAUTS Bertrand, DJAMMEN NZEPA Ferdinand, DURAND Isabelle, EVENAT Charlotte, FEVRIER Julie, FILLOLA Vincent, FLEURIS Béatrice, FRAIGNEAU Françoise, GETTI Jean-Pierre, GISSLER Danaé, GOUZENNE Pierre, GRANDCLEMENT Joëlle, ICHARD Geneviève, JACQUET Anne-Louise, LEBLANC Nathalie, LEPRÊTRE Thérèse, MAINIER-SCHALL Constance, MARTINEAU Christine, METTON Ingrid, NAYRAL DE PUYBUSQUE Henri, PAGE Claudine, PANEFF Ivan, PAQUIER Armelle, PASQUIER DE SOLAN Gaëlle, PLAGNOL Clémentine, PLESSE Manon, POURQUIE-KESSAS Julien, SANTI LAGOUTTE COUEDRO Tristan, SCHOENACKER ROSSI Isabelle, SMAIL Nelly, TRANCHAND Clémence, TROSSAT Camille, TRUSSES-NAPROUS Fabienne, TUBIANA Pauline, VELHO Julia, WALTER Caroline

## HEAD OFFICE TEAM

**Executive Director :**  
**Anne LUTUN**

**Project officers :** Christophe  
**VINCENT**  
Fabienne REVIGLIO  
(jusqu'en janvier 2022)  
Mélanie CANOVAS

**Administrative and Financial  
Officer :** Alexandre  
**CROIZIERS DE LACIVIVIER**

**Project Development and  
Monitoring Officer :** Matthias  
**COUGNAUD**

**Communication Assistant :**  
Michaël ANDRIAMIATRA  
et Salim MAATOUK

**Executive Assistant :** Felix  
**CARREIRO**, Charlotte  
**JAMIER**, Renda Murielle  
**KANGA**

## THE FIELD TEAMS

### GREECE

**Project Manager**  
**Bláithín QUIGLEY**

**Volunteers :**  
Saïmi STEINER  
Yris VERNIER  
Jessica HOWARD  
Caroline GARCIA  
Léa LANTELME  
Natalia ANDROULAKI  
Quitterie PINTON

**Avocates grecques**  
Dimitra DOKANARI  
Panagiota KARANIKI

### GUINEA

**Project Manager :**  
**SOUARE Alhassane** ( Until  
March 2022)  
**SEKOU TOURE Ahmed**

**Project Assistant :**  
**FEINDOUNO SAA Layoulou**  
**Administrative and Financial  
Officer :**  
**TOURE Kabinè**

### MALI

**Project manager :**  
**SIDIBE Saïfoulaye**  
**Project Monitoring and Evaluation  
Assistant :** OVONO Aymar

### NIGERIA

**Country Director :**  
**Angela Uwandu Uzoma-Iwuchukwu**  
**Financial and Logistics Administrator:**  
**Valentine LAZARUS**

**Case Manager:**  
**AMIHERE Edugie**

**Communication officer :**  
**GBULIE Chinedu Christopher**

**Judicial assistant :**  
**MEMBIS Jovita**

### HAITI

**Project Manager:**  
**JOASSAINT Marc Daly**  
**Coordination Assistant**  
**:Misstherly Casseus**

# CAMEROUN

**Project duration:** June 2020 - March 2022  
**Intervention areas:** Bafoussam, Bamenda, Buea, Yaoundé

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

*"For a better adoption of alternative sentences to the socio-anthropological realities of Cameroon, it will be necessary to transmit to citizens through training attitudes likely to promote understanding, tolerance and forgiveness.*

*Pr James MOUANGUE KOBILA, President of the Human Rights Commission of Cameroon*

### 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 authorities in charge of prosecutions.

**In order to fight against prison overcrowding** and poor conditions of detention, Law 2016-7 of 12 July 2016 introduced alternative sentences into the Cameroonian Penal Code.

**The Minister of Justice**, Laurent Ezzo, highlighted the role of laws in relieving prison overcrowding, but also in supporting prisoners towards reintegration and resocialisation. However, Article 26, related to community service, defines the conditions for its application in an additional text that has not yet been promulgated. The law is therefore not applicable in reality. In this context, the situation of the most vulnerable, notably LGBTI persons, women and minors, is worrying. Indeed, these 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 accordance 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 sanctions between the different actors involved in the protection of the rights of persons deprived of their freedom.

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022

- 16** prisoners received free legal aid
- 32** people took part of educational talks

### PARTNERS

**The Cameroonian Network** of Human Rights Organisations (RECODH) is a legalized network of associations and collectives of associations working for the promotion and protection of human rights and governance. Its members and sympathisers, spread throughout the country, work for a single goal: the culture of human rights in Cameroon.

**ASF Cameroon** is an association governed by law 90/053, and its mission is to bring together all Lawyers without discrimination, without exclusion, wishing to provide legal assistance in situations where the right to a fair trial is violated, is at risk of being violated or needs to be asserted, to contribute to the effective application of universally recognized human rights.





# GREECE

**Project duration:** Since January 2019  
**Area of intervention:** the island of Samos

## 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 as in the negative decision it seemed like the Greek asylum service didn't believe me. Finally, after four months of wait, 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 has made 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, Avocats sans Frontières France opened the Samos Legal Centre in January 2019 and has been providing legal support to asylum seekers who are geographically restricted in Samos ever since.

**With the opening** of a new 'closed controlled' camp in Samos in September 2021, the first such camp 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 community volunteers works in cooperation with local actors and partners to ensure access to justice and protection of the right to seek asylum.

## PERSPECTIVES

**Information** and legal advice on the asylum procedure.

Preparation for asylum interviews.

Handling of cases before the Appeal Committees.

Identification and orientation of people in vulnerable situations.

Information and awareness-raising workshops on the asylum procedure.

Support in family reunification procedures.

Preparation and submission of applications for reconsideration.

Filing applications for interim measures before the ECHR for asylum seekers in extremely vulnerable situations.

## OBJECTIVE

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

## REALISATIONS IN 2022

**882 beneficiaries** were accompanied (490 direct beneficiaries and 392 through the hotline for general questions), including 142 women and 389 new beneficiaries. A total of 1782 consultations were carried out, including 388 interview preparations.

**22 cases** were supported in their appeal process and 23 for requests for reconsideration. 557 case management consultations were carried out for vulnerable applicants (survivors of trafficking, torture, LGBTQ+ cases, pregnant women). Follow-up to previous submissions for 16 people, including 7 children, were submitted to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

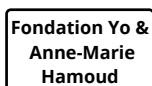
## PARTNERS

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

**-I Have Rights** is a legal and political NGO that provides access to individualised legal information and support to people on the move, including asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Samos.

**-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.

**-DLA Piper** is an international law firm with lawyers in more than 40 countries in the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia-Pacific, helping to meet legal needs around the world. With over 4,200 lawyers, DLA Piper is the largest international law firm in the world.



## REVENDIC | Corporate Responsibility and Rights Violations: Natural Environment, Community Rights, Map Identification

*The REVENDIC project enabled the government and public opinion to understand the serious failings of human rights violations in the context of iron mining in Forécariah, to bring together civil society actors around an action plan to monitor the implementation of the recommendations and to raise awareness among communities of their rights vis-à-vis the iron mining company and the state. The project was a perfect collaboration between the expertise of an international NGO (ASF France) and a national NGO (Action Mines Guinée) to address the challenges of respecting human rights in the context of mining in Guinea.*

**Anonymous**

### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

**The Republic of Guinea** is endowed with enormous natural potential, particularly in terms of mining (bauxites, iron, etc.). However, the majority of its population lives below the poverty line. Indeed, according to the report of the 2012 extended poverty survey (INS/2012), 55.2% of Guineans are poor. Mining is a national economic issue because of its contribution to the country's economy.

**The prefecture of Forécariah** is a town in the southwest of Guinea. The prefecture is experiencing iron mining in 2012, in addition to granite quarries, artisanal diamond mining and the Ashapura company exploits iron ore inherited from Forécariah Guinée Mining. In mining localities, the cohabitation between mining companies and communities is often marked by social unrest caused by the violation of human rights and this is due in particular to the weakness of public policies to promote development at the grassroots.

**It is within this framework** that Action Mines Guinée and ASF France intend to carry out a study on the type and extent of human rights violations, with a view to a commitment to the legal empowerment of communities to enable them to claim their rights from society and the authorities. The recommendations of the study will enable the consortium of CSO Environment Development to develop an action plan to improve the living conditions of the communities, and this will be done in conjunction with the PISCCA project.

### OBJECTIVE

**To contribute** to the identification of human rights violations and capacity building of communities impacted by mining in the prefecture of Forécariah, Guinea.

### REALISATIONS IN 2022

**A diagnostic** study presenting the mapping of cases of human rights violations due to mining in the prefectures of Forécariah, Kindia and Mamou

**A feedback** workshop for stakeholders

**2 follow-up missions** on the study's recommendations by the Forécariah environment and sustainable development consortium

### PARTNERS

**Action Mines Guinée** is a Guinean civil society organisation (CSO) focusing on natural resource governance and the impact of mining on communities. It participates in the monitoring of the management of extractive industries by promoting good governance through transparency and accountability in the extractive industries but also by working for the protection of the environment and the rights of communities impacted by mining activities.



# GUINEA

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

## PARAJ | Project to support the strengthening of 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 allow our organisation to develop further in managing projects in various forms.*

*"Foromo Frédéric Loua, Executive Director of MDT in Conakry and member of 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, 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 put additional pressure on prisons and vulnerable prisoners.

### REALISATIONS IN 2022

- Development of 8 training modules
- Training of trainers for 20 Guinean community justice actors
- Training for local justice actors on:
  - Gender-based violence
  - Children's rights
  - Reception of victims and processing of requests
  - Criminal law and procedures
  - Protection of personal data
  - Mediation and conciliation
  - Human rights issues

### 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.



### PARTNERS

**ASF France** acts as a technical expert to support **OGDH and MDT**, which are in charge of coordinating the actions of the Legal Clinics and the Houses of Justice. These actions are carried out in coordination with the partner **COGINTA**, the initiator of this project, an international organisation specialising in the fields of security and judicial governance, social cohesion and the rule of law.

COGINTA



# GUINEA

Project duration: 2021 - 2022

Areas of intervention: National coverage

## RESPECT | Strengthening the capacity of civil society for the effective implementation of human rights treaties and conventions

*"Thanks to the knowledge acquired during 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 helped to strengthen 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 enabled a precise mapping of past and current actions, an analysis of the expertise and needs of civil society organisations (CSOs) and thus the identification of 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 training for CSOs acting in isolation, the CSO network will be strengthened in its technical skills, its visibility and its impact on the population and stakeholders.

### OBJECTIVES

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

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

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

### REALISATIONS IN 2022

- Capacity building of 125 human rights defenders representing 63 civil society organisations.
- 7 studies produced on human rights developments in the country.



# GUINEA

**Project duration:** 15 October 2021 to 31 December 2022

**Intervention areas** Conakry, Kankan, N'Zérékoré and Boké

## COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

*"MDT and OGDH conducted a survey in the mining towns of Boffa and Boké in order to investigate the situation of GBV in this region of Guinea as part of the GBV project. In order to have complete, reliable and updated data and to understand the complexity of the phenomenon, this survey was conducted to determine the extent and the determinants of GBV in these mining areas.*

*The results of this survey allowed us to have ideas and data on the existence of multi-faceted violence by taking into account certain socio-demographic variables such as gender, age, level of education, economic activity, place of residence and medical and judicial care.*

**Koulemou Yereke, MDT spokesperson**

## PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Globally, 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 women face many institutional and socio-cultural obstacles. Their situation is still marked by limited access to social services and productive resources, limited participation in decision-making processes at the local level and limited access to education.

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 organisations 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 of women's rights issues in the media.



## OBJECTIVE

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

## REALISATIONS IN 2022

- **26 members** of CSOs for the protection of women's rights and actors in the criminal justice system strengthened their capacity to fight against sexual crimes and GBV.
- Management of 48 cases of GBV.
- A survey on the situation of GBV in the mining region of Boké



## PARTNERS

**L'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 a human rights NGO that was founded in 2004 by Guinean lawyers and young legal professionals to fight against human rights violations in Guinea.



Project duration : Since March 2022

Areas of intervention : Guinea and Cote D'ivoire

# GUINEA AND IVORY COAST

## IMPACT | INVOLVEMENT OF DIGITAL MEDIA IN ACTIVE CONFLICT AND TENSION PREVENTION

"By fighting against disinformation, the spread of hateful content and the dissemination of misleading information, our ambition through the IMPACT project is to maintain social peace in West Africa for the consolidation of democratic societies that respect human rights.

Ahmed Sékou Touré, IMPACT Project Manager

### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

The IMPACT project was conducted out of the need to strengthen the positive role of civil society in West Africa, including digital media, in conflict prevention in order to participate more globally in the consolidation of a sustainable peace. IMPACT supports civil society in maximising the potential of media (traditional, community, social) on conflict dynamics to contribute to building and consolidating sustainable peace in Ivory Coast and Guinea. In this sense, the project considers that civil society must be able to play a central role in conflict prevention and must benefit from capacity building to this end.

The implemented activities are complementary and will aim to analysing the role of the media in the coverage of conflicts and promoting the creation of synergies to support exchange and experience, strengthening the capacities of the media by equipping them with tools to maximise their potential and finally mobilising the media and civil society actors against hate speech and in favour of dialogue processes.

### OBJECTIVES

**Strengthen** the positive role of civil society, including digital media, in conflict prevention.



### REALISATIONS IN 2022

**Assessment** of applicable standards, current practices and risks on the theme of "Media and conflict prevention

**Creation** of a secure and collaborative platform to prevent conflicts generated on online media

9 participants, including 3 women, in the workshop to co-create a secure and collaborative platform to prevent conflict on online media

**25 participants**, including 4 women, in the workshop for the restitution of the state of play and the sharing of good practices between the target countries

**14 participants** in the first follow-up workshop to strengthen exchange and synergies between partners

### PARTNERS

**Danaïdes** is an NGO that develops communication tools and channels for the protection of civilians in countries in conflict.



**AfricTivistes** is a pan-African network of bloggers and web-activists based in Senegal that aims to promote and defend democratic values, human rights and good governance through digital media.



**The Association des Blogueurs de Guinée (ABLOGUI)**, made up of web citizens in Guinea, aims to promote citizen participation in building democracy through information and communication technologies.



**The Réseau des Professionnels de la Presse en Ligne de Côte d'Ivoire (REPPRELICI)** is a historical umbrella organisation of the Ivorian digital media, whose main objective is to promote and develop the online press and all related professions in Côte d'Ivoire.



# HAITI

**Project duration:** March 2020 to June 2024  
**Intervention areas :** Port-au-Prince, Croix des Bouquets, Petit-Goâve, Cabaret and Gonaïves

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

*"The Haitian judicial system is not spared from 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

In 2022, Haiti is ranked 136th out of 140 countries in the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index. One of the factors of this failure is the chronic political instability. Indeed, since its independence in 1804, the country has experienced a succession of dictatorships and foreign interventions.

Overcrowding in Haiti's prisons leads to inhuman conditions of detention. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the overcrowding is mainly due to the high number of arbitrary arrests and the frequent use of preventive detention.

In 2022, prolonged pre-trial detention accounted for 82% of detainees at 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 due in particular to the lack of knowledge and the non-application of the rules of law by those involved in the criminal justice system and by citizens.

### OBJECTIVE

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

**To contribute** to the defence and protection of the rights of persons deprived of their freedom through the involvement and participation of national actors in Haiti.

### REALISATIONS EN 2022

-13 CASLDH staff trained as trainers on case documentation tools, referral to regional and international mechanisms and advocacy strategies and tools;

-106 members of local CSOs were strengthened on the protection of the civil and political rights of people deprived of their liberty;

- 3 theatrical performances were given by the Palto Vanyan theatre company, raising awareness among 470 spectators about the conditions of detention in Haiti

### PARTNER

**Collectif d'Avocats-es Spécialisés en Litige stratégique des Droits Humains (CALSDH)**, a Haitian organisation in charge of coordinating actions on the ground. CALSDH specialises in bringing to justice emblematic cases that have the potential to contribute to the implementation of a culture of fighting impunity in Haiti. It fights for access to justice without any form of discrimination and intends to contribute to the creation of jurisprudential precedents capable of bringing about social change.



## JUDGE | 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 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 context that is as disturbed as it is complex,

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 spheres, 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.

### 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.



### REALISATIONS IN 2022

**27 actors** of the penal chain and doctors in the field of GBV were trained

**93 cases of GBV** were identified and treated

**30 lawyers** joined a network for the exchange of experiences and good practices in the management of GBV/LSV cases

**78 students** from a training organisation were trained on GBV and SGBV

**121 members** of feminist organizations mobilized on the draft bill criminalizing GBV

**29 paralegals and 32** community and religious leaders trained on GBV

**45 journalists** equipped to report on GBV and raise awareness among the population

**3,674 people** (including 2,732 women and 881 men) were sensitized on GBV through thematic community discussions

### PARTNERS

**Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) Mali**, a member of a large pan-African network, has as its mission to promote and strengthen strategies that link law to development in order to increase the participation and influence of women for the emergence of a culture of the exercise and respect of women's rights in Africa



**Avocats Sans Frontières Mali** is an association for the defence of human rights 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.





## SAFE | Building the capacity of national actors and advocating for an end to gross human rights violations

*"Losing 11 years of one's life to a systemic irregularity is unimaginable suffering, nothing can ever make up for this loss. The practice of systematically charging suspects with serious offences and holding them in pre-trial detention indefinitely, without making any effort to prosecute, must be stopped."*

Angela UZOMA-IWUCHUKWU, Country Director in Nigeria

### PRESENTATION DU PROJET

**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. The impunity of these actions leads to a lack of confidence by the Nigerian population in the ability of the police to protect them: they are perceived as the enemy of the people.

### REALISATIONS IN 2022

16 identified cases of torture, arbitrary imprisonment or extrajudicial execution were addressed and 3 emblematic cases were brought before the ECOWAS court

81 police officers and CSO members participated in the two Situation Rooms organised on human rights violations by security agencies

80 members of the police and other state security agencies were trained on human rights best practices

29 people from state security agencies, CSOs, relevant ministries and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) participated in roundtable discussions to propose solutions to serious human rights violations

12 authorities were met at the federal level as part of the advocacy activities

21 lawyers participated in the annual coordination and experience sharing meeting

11 petitions submitted to international human rights bodies on symbolic cases of serious human rights violations

### OBJECTIVES

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

**To recognise** the responsibility of state security agencies for serious human rights violations, and to obtain redress for victims through the strengthening of the Nigerian Bar Association's (NBA) 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.



### PARTNERS

The National Bar Association of Nigeria (NBA) is a non-profit professional association with observer status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and partnership with many national and international NGOs concerned with human rights, rule of law and good governance in Nigeria and Africa in general. The NBA is made up of 105,406 active lawyers in 125 branches across the country.

The Carmelite Prisoners' Interest Organisation (CAPIO) was established in 1992 as a human rights organisation to defend the rights, needs and dignity of prisoners. They promote real justice through advocacy and promotional activities to raise awareness of these issues among the general population.



# NIGERIA

Project date: June 2022

Intervention areas: Edo, Enugu, Kaduna, Imo and Lagos States

## INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE

### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

**Torture is a major concern in Nigeria. For many years, security agencies have notoriously tortured citizens.**

Detainees and suspects are subjected to varying degrees of harassment, extortion and violence, and in several cases, they are tortured to confess to crimes they may not have committed.

Torture remains prevalent within security agencies, despite various efforts by civil society to end the practice.

**Torture**, which can be physical or psychological, is one of the leading causes of death in custody in Nigeria. Those accused of petty theft, armed robbery, murder or terrorism-related crimes are most at risk of torture.

**Nigeria** has ratified international and regional human rights treaties that prohibit torture. In 2017, it domesticated the International Convention against Torture by enacting the Anti-Torture Act. However, despite the enactment of this legislative instrument, the practice has not been eradicated.

### OBJECTIVE

**The celebration** of this day aims to raise public awareness about the prevalence of torture committed by security agencies. From a broader perspective, it aims to convince people and policy makers that the Anti-Torture Act 2017 must be implemented.

### REALISATIONS IN 2022

**30 experts** and representatives of security agencies participated in a technical consultation on "Zero Tolerance for Torture by Security Agencies".

**40 participants** took part in a press conference to draw the attention of key actors to the prevalence of torture in Nigeria

**60 people** took part in a march through the streets of Abuja to protest against torture.

**1 communication campaign** was launched on social networks

### PARTNERS

**ASF France** acts as a technical expert to support the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (**RoLAC**) which is in charge of coordinating activities and with Access to Justice (**A2Justice**).



**RULE OF LAW AND ANTI-CORRUPTION**

# NIGERIA

**Project duration:** January 2022 - February 2023  
**Intervention areas:** Lagos, Ogun, Imo, Enugu and Kaduna

## ProCAT | Fight against torture

*"From the torture room they took me to court, from court I was sent back to prison."*

Anonyme

### PRESENTATION OF THE PROJÉT

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

### OBJECTIVES

**To contribute** to the reduction of torture throughout the judicial chain.

**To improve** access to justice and legal services for victims of torture. To strengthen the knowledge and skills of judicial authorities.

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

### REALISATIONS IN 2022

**Pro bono defence** of victims of torture or ill-treatment at various stages of the judicial process.

**75 victims** of torture, including 1 minor and 7 women, had access to justice. 5 bail was granted among these cases, allowing release from prison. 16 cases of previous projects were successfully concluded and in some cases the court sentenced the perpetrators to damages.



### PARTNERS

**The National Bar Association of Nigeria (NBA)** is a leading non-profit professional association made up of all lawyers registered with the Nigerian Bar Association. It has observer status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and partnerships with many national and international NGOs concerned with human rights, rule of law and good governance in Nigeria and Africa in general. The NBA is made up of 105,406 active lawyers in 125 branches across the country.

**The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** of Nigeria was established in 1995. The Commission serves as an extrajudicial mechanism that protects the human rights of the Nigerian people. It monitors compliance with human rights, assists victims of violations and supports the Nigerian government in the implementation of human rights policies.



# TRAININGS

"The keys that we were given allow us to make our own legal and personal journey to deepen the notions later. (...) I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much. It is both essential and complex to approach these very human issues from a legal perspective.

**Anonymous testimony at the end of our training on asylum**

## In 2022, ASF France obtained Qualiopi certification

This certification is a guarantee of quality which makes our legal training courses likely to be approved by the Conseil National de Barreaux (CNB) and to be covered by the Opérateurs de Compétences (OPCO) and the Fonds interprofessionnel de formation des professionnels libéraux (FIF PL).

**Qualiopi**  
processus certifié

**RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE**

La certification qualité a été délivrée au titre de la catégorie d'action suivante :  
ACTIONS DE FORMATION

## Scheduled legal training

Three remote training sessions were held on the following topics: the rights of asylum seekers in France and in the European Union, the defence of victims before the International Criminal Court (ICC), the rights of victims of gender-based violence (GBV).

## Tailor-made legal training

3 webinars on asylum law and the rights of persons deprived of their liberty were commissioned by the Ecole des Avocats de Bordeaux (EDA Aliénor) for its continuing education programme.

## Training for our volunteers

To develop the skills of our volunteers, ASF France organised two trainers' courses, one on the fundamentals (in Paris), and the other on reinforcement (distance learning). These training courses benefited from subsidies from the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sport, through its Fonds de développement de la vie associative (FDVA).

## Key figures

100% of the legal training courses have been approved by the CNB.

The satisfaction rate of learners is 86%.



# HIGHLIGHTS 2022

## February 2022: ISO9001 certification for ASF France

**February 2022:** ISO9001 certification for ASF France

In 2022, ASF France has set itself a major challenge: to obtain **ISO 9001 certification**, an international standard that is a reference for quality management. This success is the result of a process of reflection and daily work to continuously improve our association's management and its projects. ASF France is proud to be one of the few international NGOs promoting and protecting human rights to be certified. Thanks to our teams at headquarters and in the field, to our partners and volunteers, without whom the quality of our actions and management could not be recognised.



## JUNE 2022 : Avocats Sans Frontières France at the World Justice Forum!

Our project officer Mélanie Canovas and our legal expert Caroline WALTER attended this major event in The Hague.

Their participation was an opportunity to exchange with many actors involved in the protection of human rights and the development of the rule of law.



## JUNE 2022 : Race of Heroes

Congratulations to the runners from EDA and the Bordeaux Bar Association for completing the 10 km on Sunday 12 June during the Race of Heroes! ASF France would like to thank all the people who supported us during this race.



## October 2022: Solidarity meetings

On Tuesday 6 October, the Toulouse Bar Association held a cheque presentation ceremony as part of its "Permanences Solidaires" programme. Through this operation, which lasts one week, lawyers providing free legal consultations have chosen to pay ASF France the fees granted by the Conseil départemental d'accès au droit (CDAD).

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

## October 2022: General Assembly 2022

Several dozen of you attended the ASF France AGM, which was held on Saturday 8 October 2022 in the premises of the Toulouse Bar Association and on Zoom.

It was an opportunity to vote on the moral and financial reports. It was also a time for meetings and reunions between members, the head office team and 3 field staff.



## CATALOGUE des œuvres NFT



## November 2022: SOLIDARY SALE OF NFT WORKS TO EFB

The charity auction of NFT works in aid of the association Avocats Sans Frontières France took place on 16 November 2022, at the end of a day of EFB- ENM training on the legal issues of NFT.

## December 2022: 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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



ASF France has also set up a webinar on the duty of care of companies with experts from Vigo and our association.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

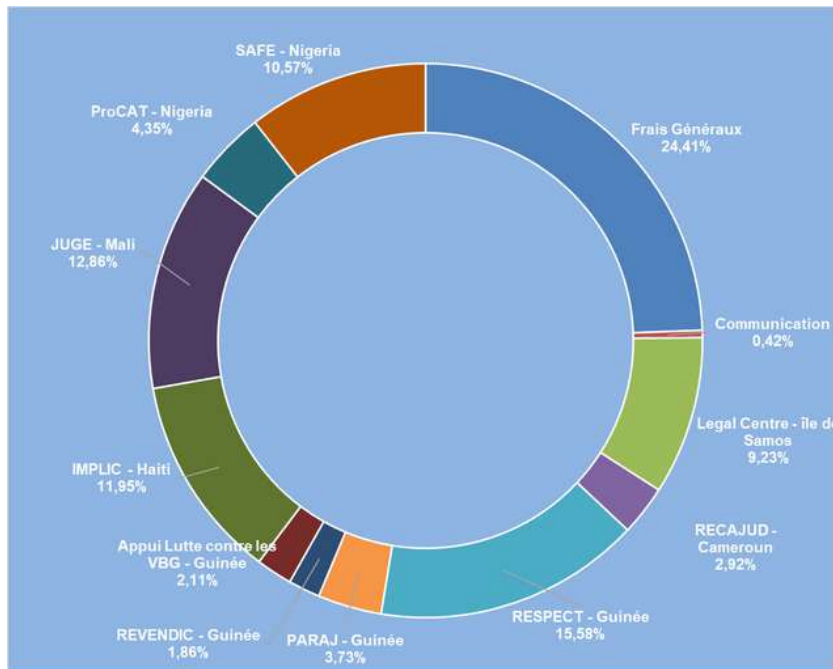
-The **governance** of the association is funded on two key principles:

**Independence:** ASF France is an independent association, both in terms of its philosophy and its means of action.

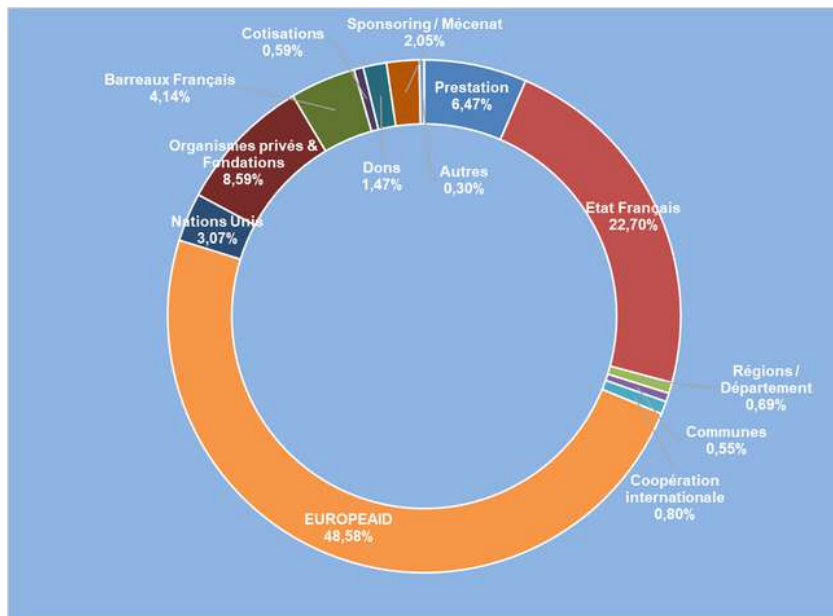
-**Financial transparency:** ASF France guarantees to its members and to all entities with which it is in contact, the transparency of its actions, finances and accounts of the association. It undertakes to strictly respect the accounting and management rules in force. Since its creation, its accounts have been subject to an annual independent audit and certification, the results of which are accessible. In addition, the association establishes the principle of internal management control, regular independent evaluation and external audit in its various actions.

-**Budget 2022 vs 2021 :** Variation of 20.98%.

## BURDEN SHARING 2022



## ORIGINS OF THE PRODUCTS 2022



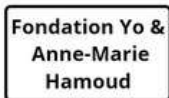
# THEY SUPPORT US

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.

## LANDLORDS AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



## PRIVATE PARTNERS





# THEY SUPPORT US

## ORGANISATIONS AND LAW FIRMS

**ACTEIS**  
Société d'Avocats

De Caunes  
et Forget

**LATHAM & WATKINS**

  
MORVILLIERS SENTENAC  
ASSOCIÉS  
le droit en mouvement

  
Simon COHEN, cabinet d'avocats

  
AVOCATS  
BARREAU  
• PARIS

  
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## THE 50 BARS THAT SUPPORT US

  
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avocats

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## NETWORKS

  
CIB  
Conférence Internationale des Barreaux

**WORLD  
COALITION**  
AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

  
DAY OF THE  
ENDANGERED LAWYER

**KEEP YOUR HANDS  
OFF THE LAWYERS**

  
oing  
Conférence des organisations internationales  
non gouvernementales de la Francophonie

ORGANISATION  
INTERNATIONALE DE  
la francophonie

IOI Plateforme  
IOI Droits humains



# HOW TO SUPPORT US?

## YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR ACTION!

**You can make a donation:** online or by post (cheque or bank transfer): send the donation form to ASF France 13 rue des Fleurs - 31000 Toulouse. You can even opt for a monthly donation!

**You can join:** online or by mail.

**You can make a bequest:** ASF France is recognised as a public utility association and is authorised to receive bequests, donations and life insurance policies, which are fully exempt from inheritance and transfer taxes.

**You can mobilise your company:** organise a charity event with your employees, put products on sale by donating a percentage, order a tailor-made training course, subscribe to the rounding up of funds.

**If you are a lawyer, you can mobilise your bar association:** organise Solidarity Workshops in coordination with the Departmental Council for Access to the Law.

**You can give without spending money by browsing the web with Lilo or Bing Solidaire,** or by buying online with Helpfreely.

**You can order** tailor-made training courses run by our volunteer experts.

**You can buy ASF France's lattice dress made by L'Artisan Costumier,** to decorate your law office or your premises.

You can do many other things!

## YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION



Find out more from : Matthias Cougnaud at  
05 34 31 17 83 /  
developpement@avocatssansfrontieres-  
france.org

"To support ASF France is to support the fight for just causes, those where freedom and sometimes life are at stake" ROBERT BADINTER



# BUILDING A WORLD OF JUSTICE

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

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France

*Là où la défense n'a plus la parole*