

# ASF FRANCE NEWSLETTER

Your quarterly newsletter with Avocats Sans Frontières France



## FOCUS ON...

### PARTNERSHIPS WITH BARS AND LAW SOCIETIES

Since its inception, Avocats Sans Frontières France has been supported by the Bars and Law Societies. Among its 30 founding members in 1998 were the bar associations of Paris, Lyon, Marseille and Toulouse. In 2023, ASF France will have the support of **50 Bar Associations and the Conseil National des Barreaux**. In 2024, the association hopes to rally even more support. Each Bar can get involved in 3 ways :

1

Pay a membership fee, the amount of which depends on the number of lawyers registered.

2

Granting a subsidy

3

Organise "Permanences Solidaires" during legal consultations paid for by the Conseil Départemental d'Accès au Droit (CDAD).

This last form of support is particularly interesting because it makes it possible to support access to the law 'here' and 'there'. Over a given period, the lawyers providing free legal advice agree to pay ASF France the fees paid by the CDAD.

#### What's in it for the participating Bar?

- **Bring your lawyers together** around a common cause. **Reinforce the image** of a committed Bar, with the possibility of organising a cheque presentation ceremony.

#### What's in it for the lawyer?

- **Support a cause** that is at the heart of your professional commitment, **without spending a lot of time or money**. **Receive free annual membership** of ASF France. If the Bar agrees, validate 3 or 4 hours of continuing education.

The role of the President of the Bar is obviously fundamental to the success of the operation. He or she must persuade his or her colleagues to accept that this fee will not be paid to them but directly to ASF France. They must choose a specific period (1 or 2 weeks) during which the maximum number of consultations is scheduled in the CDAD's planning.

*"My commitment to the Permanences Solidaires was an obvious choice, as it enabled me to reconcile access to the law for the most vulnerable members of the legal profession with a commitment to solidarity with Avocats Sans Frontières France".*



**Aurore CHHE - Lawyer at the Toulouse Bar.**



Now is the time to take action. If you would like to get your bar association involved in the Permanences Solidaires scheme, or if you have any questions, please contact **Matthias COUGNAUD**, development officer, on 05 34 31 17 83 or [developpement@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org](mailto:developpement@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org), and **Isabelle DURAND**, board member responsible for the scheme, on 06.88.67.26.38 or [isabelle.durand@avocatline.fr](mailto:isabelle.durand@avocatline.fr).

# THE FLOOR TO...

## FINANCIAL PARTNERS OF THE SAMOS LEGAL CENTRE

In 2024, Samos Legal Centre enters its fifth year of existence.

Unfortunately, the number of arrivals and the difficulties encountered by asylum seekers on the island during the first half of 2024 show that its existence remains crucial for asylum seekers on Samos.

In the first three months of 2024, 1258 people arrived on the island to seek asylum. This represents an increase of 1929% compared to 2022 and 115% compared to 2023. Against this backdrop, the work of the Samos Legal Centre team, which aims to provide free legal and judicial assistance to asylum seekers, helps to guarantee the right to seek asylum and to protect constitutional rights.

In this, our fifth year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the project's financial partners. Two of them, who have supported us since the beginning of the project, would like to say a few words:

*"It is a real pleasure and privilege to support the work of ASF France in Samos. The need for legal representation of people on the move receives little attention in the philanthropic sector, but in Greece the need is arguably more pressing than ever. By reading the project's monthly newsletter on the situation in Samos, I feel very well informed about developments in and around the Controlled Access Closed Centre (CCAC)".*

**Antonis Schwartz, Good Moves Initiative.**

*« The Yo and Anne-Marie Hamoud Foundation provides ongoing support to the Samos Legal Centre, and it remains vital that we continue to support this project for the fifth year. ».*

**Anne-Marie Hamoud, Fondation Yo et Anne-Marie Hamoud**



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## OUR PARTNERS BY OUR SIDE !

We would like to thank all our partners who have given or renewed their support since the 1st quarter, enabling us to better anticipate our resources and needs for the year:

- the companies **L'Artisan Costumier** and **Créa2f** the law firms **EMBASE AVOCATS** and **ACTION AVOCATS**
- the associations **Rotaract Club Toulouse** and **Chamonix Zermatt Avocats**
- and already 20 Bars : **Agen, Albi, Blois, Bourges, Brive, Chartres, Châteauroux, Clermont-Ferrand, Colmar, Cusset-Vichy, l'Ain, Laval, Melun, Orléans, Rennes, Saintes, Saint-Nazaire, Tours, Versailles** and the **Ordre des avocats au Conseil d'Etat et à la Cour de Cassation.**



**Would you also like to get your company, law firm, association or bar association involved?**

Contact Matthias COUGNAUD on 05 34 31 17 83 or [developpement@avocatssa.nsfborderes-france.org](mailto:developpement@avocatssa.nsfborderes-france.org).



# SPECIAL FOCUS ON...

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION ON THE 1994 GENOCIDE OF THE TUTSIS IN RWANDA

"07 April 2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the outbreak of the Rwandan genocide on 6 April 1994. For Avocats sans Frontières, this was a tragic opportunity to put into practice its stated aim of defending people who are heavily accused or victims of serious crimes and who are unable to benefit from the presence of a lawyer.

This is how the 'Justice for All in Rwanda' project was conceived and implemented, aimed at defending victims and those accused of genocide.

Hundreds of lawyers from many countries, mainly African, but also American, European and, of course, French, took part in the project in a country where death had spread its empire and still reigned supreme, in the midst of a thousand dangers, before Judges trained in a few weeks, with the death penalty; without them, no fair justice could have been rendered since, after the end of the genocide in July 1994, there remained only 12 lawyers, survivors, for more than 100,000 accused and countless victims.

We started work as soon as the trials began in January 1997. The first Rwandan colleague who agreed to join us was abducted after a hearing and never reappeared: Innocent Murengezi. Our presence alone enabled fair trials to be held, with the acquittal of several hundred innocent people and assistance to thousands of victims.

None of us had ever been confronted with a holocaust, and we were all forever marked by this experience, which remains the founding project of the Avocats sans Frontières movement, as well as an indescribable wound.

It was in these circumstances that Avocats Sans Frontières France was created, finding its full justification here: 'where the defence no longer has a voice'; to enable fair trials to be held, intended to weave the first thread of a social bond destroyed by this supreme crime of genocide; far from any polemic, with women and men united around their passion for this Justice to which we have humbly contributed."



**François Cantier**

Lawyer

Founder and Honorary Chairman of Avocats Sans Frontières France

Founder and Chairman of the Ecole Des Droits Humains et de la Terre.

@Qiang XU





# QUARTERLY NEWS

## NIGERIA

- [e-RIGHTS: 16 days of activism against cyber sexism in Nigeria](#)
- [e-RIGHTS: Training sessions on digital rights for 14 judges and 20 lawyers](#)

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- [RAMADE: training sessions for those involved in the criminal justice system](#)

## GUINEA & IVORY COAST

- [IMPACT: awareness-raising caravans](#)

## SYRIAN KURDISTAN

- [Conditions of detention of French nationals in camps in north-eastern Syria](#)

## ASF FRANCE

- [The interview of our vice-president Pierre DUNAC by ToulÉco](#)
- [2023 Activity Report](#)
- [2024 action plan](#)
- [2024 training catalogue](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

### *New year, new governance!*

At the Ordinary General Meeting of ASF France on 2 December 2023 in Toulouse, more than 200 people attended the renewal of the Board of Directors. With 15 members, this new Board elected five people to make up the Office. Discover the wishes of our co-presidents Matthieu BAGARD and Paul- Albert IWEINS for the year 2024!



### *ASF France launches two new projects*



Discover ASF France's new projects for this quarter! As part of the LIBRE project, from 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2027, we are fighting against GBV in Guinea. Our aim? To reduce the country's structural and economic vulnerabilities. As part of the PAGOC project, from 1 April 2024 to 30 October 2027, we are strengthening prison governance in Cameroon. How will we do this? By focusing on the protection of people in detention, particularly the most vulnerable prisoners.

### *ASF France pays tribute to Robert BADINTER*

ASF France pays tribute to Robert Badinter, a fervent defender of human rights. His support, since our creation in 1998, has been invaluable. For him, supporting ASF France meant 'defending just causes, those where freedom and sometimes life are at stake'. Members of the association attended the national tribute on 14 February 2024 in Paris.



### *Talk by Stéphane BRABANT at 3A Toulouse*

On 29 March 2024, Stéphane Brabant, a volunteer expert at ASF France, shared his expertise on corporate duty of care with the Mastère 1 students at our partner school, 3A Toulouse.

## ON THE MOVE AT ASF FRANCE !

At head office, we would like to thank **Mouna LTIFI**, **Jeanne VASSEUR** and **Séfora MADINGOU-MIDOU**, who were project coordinator and administrative and accounting assistant respectively.

We would also like to welcome

- **Antoine PASSAVANT** and **Elena PICARDI** (project coordinator and assistant project coordinator, at head office)
- **Aminata MILLIMONO** (project manager in Guinea)
- **Bintou DIOP** (technical and legal assistant, Samos Legal Centre)
- **Emma BARBIER** and **Valentin NAUDET-BULARD** (volunteer project managers, Samos Legal Centre)

## JOIN US !



By becoming a member, you are showing your commitment to defending fundamental rights and taking concrete action to defend human rights !  
The membership runs for the calendar year 2024.

[I JOIN ASF FRANCE](#)