

ASF FRANCE NEWSLETTER

Your quarterly newsletter with Avocats Sans Frontières France

FOCUS ON...

THE LAUNCH OF THE PAGOC PROJECT IN CAMEROON

As a partner of Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France) and the Research Institute for Development (RIDEV) in the PAGOC project (Projet d'appui à une gouvernance carcérale basée sur les droits humains au Cameroun), the Réseau Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme (RECODH) looks back at the launch ceremony, which highlighted the collective commitment to improving prisoners' rights in Cameroon.

"For almost 4 years now, the RECODH-ASF France partnership has been actively involved in initiatives aimed at ensuring greater respect for the human rights of vulnerable social groups. The collaboration has been materialised through the implementation of two projects focusing on human rights.

The PAGOC project, which was officially launched on 26 September 2024 in Yaoundé, is the result of a shared vision for the promotion and protection of human rights and aims to improve access to justice for vulnerable detainees in prisons in 7 regions of Cameroon. Over a period of 42 months, the project will contribute to the consolidation of prison and judicial governance that is sensitive to human rights and to the protection of people in detention in Cameroon.

One of the project's priorities is to combat illegal and prolonged detention through habeas corpus proceedings in order to obtain the release of vulnerable prisoners.

In addition to legal assistance, a reintegration component will provide holistic support for prisoners, with the aim of facilitating their reintegration into society. Through psychological support, vocational training and personalised follow-up, the project aims to reduce the risk of re-offending and improve conditions for reintegration.

The project also includes an advocacy component, based on an action-research process, in particular through mapping to monitor and evaluate the application of legal and regulatory standards on detention conditions in Cameroon.

The launch ceremony provided an opportunity to present the results of the mapping of non-state actors involved in improving detention conditions in Cameroon. This work made it possible to draw up an analysis of the context of intervention of these actors, a thematic and functional mapping, as well as an analysis of the collaborative dynamics and difficulties encountered. In all, nearly 80 non-state actors likely to support the implementation of the project were identified.

Since the 1990s, although there have been improvements in the living conditions of prisoners and in prison governance, prison conditions continue not to respect prisoners' rights.

The RECODH team (Réseau Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme)



LUDOVIC RIVIÈRE

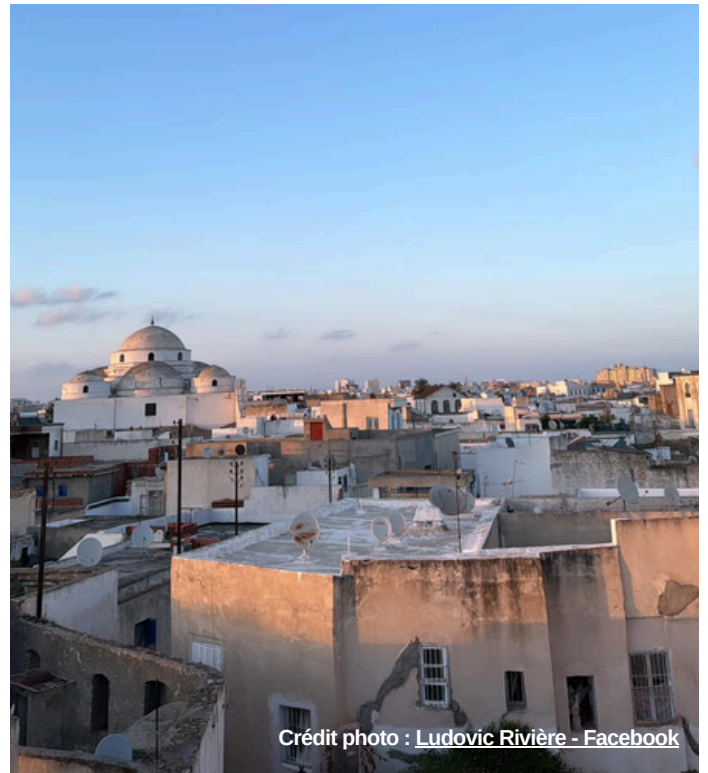
A LOOK BACK AT HIS MISSION OF OBSERVATION AND SUPPORT FOR TUNISIAN LAWYERS

"In July 2024, Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France), represented by Matthieu Bagard and myself, carried out an observation mission in Tunisia to support Tunisian colleagues facing obstacles to the exercise of their profession. This intervention was in response to an appeal from several Tunisian lawyers, who were concerned about the detention of and accusations against Nouredine Bhiri. Mr Bhiri is being prosecuted for publishing criticism of the regime of President Kaïs Saïed. These charges, based on Article 72 of the Tunisian Penal Code, could lead to a death sentence, as the article punishes any act perceived as an attempt to change the government.

The purpose of ASF France's mission, which took place from 30 June to 3 July 2024, was to observe the hearing of Maître Bhiri, held on 2 July at the Tunis Court of First Instance, and to report any irregularities. The context of this case highlights a climate of growing political repression in Tunisia, where several lawyers, notably Maîtres Sonia Dahmani and Mehdi Zagrouba, are also being prosecuted for their commitment to defending rights.

During our meetings with members of Maître Bhiri's defence team and by attending hearings, we noted the difficult conditions in which these lawyers practise their profession. In particular, reports were made of the ill-treatment suffered by Maître Bhiri during his arrest, as well as the hasty legal proceedings that compromised the rights of the defence.

This mission reaffirms ASF France's commitment to protecting the rights of lawyers in high-risk environments and promoting independent justice. Through this action, the association expresses its support for Tunisian lawyers in the face of intimidation and political pressure, recalling that freedom of expression and the right to defend oneself without fear are fundamental principles that every State must guarantee in order to preserve the rule of law."



Crédit photo : Ludovic Rivière - Facebook



OUR PARTNERS BY OUR SIDE !

We would like to thank the partners who have launched or renewed their support in the 3rd quarter, giving us the means to take action:

- L'Artisan Costumier, a partner for 10 years
- The AGN Avocats agency network
- The Bars of Nantes, Tarn-et-Garonne, Hauts-de-Seine, Rouen, Fontainebleau and Carcassonne



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@avocatssan-sfrontieres-france.org.



QUARTERLY NEWS

TUNISIA

- [PRESS RELEASE: ASF FRANCE CONDEMNS THE SENTENCING OF SONIA DAHMANI](#)
- [PRESS RELEASE: ASF FRANCE ALERTS ON THE SITUATION OF NOUREDDINE BHIRI](#)
- [PRESS RELEASE: ASF FRANCE REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT FOR MAÎTRE SONIA DAHMANI](#)

SYRIA

- [ASF FRANCE CALLS FOR THE REPATRIATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS DETAINED IN SYRIAN KURDISTAN](#)

GREECE

- [JOINT STATEMENT : ASF FRANCE URGENTLY CALLS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF FINANCIAL AID FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN GREECE](#)

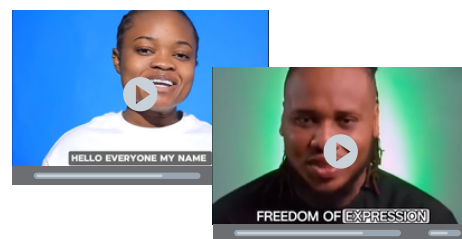
GUINEA

- [NEW ACTIVITY OF THE LIBRE PROJECT !](#)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

e-RIGHTS awareness campaign

ASF France in Nigeria has launched a campaign with a series of digital rights awareness videos from July to September 2024. Aimed at young people and women, the videos address issues such as cybersecurity and freedom of expression.



International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

On the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, Angela Uwandu Uzoma-Iwuchukwu, ASF France Country Representative in Nigeria, was a panellist at the webinar entitled 'Ending Impunity: Demanding Justice for Torture Victims'.

Training for trainers in Bordeaux (EDA Aliénor)

Matthieu BAGARD, co-chairman and volunteer expert of ASF France, led a train-the-trainer workshop as part of the continuing education programme for lawyers at the EDA Aliénor in Bordeaux on 31 August 2024.



Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

128 international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), including ASF France, accredited to *La Francophonie*, came together to reaffirm their commitment in the face of growing global challenges on 10 September 2024 in Paris. To consult the final declaration of the XIIIth INGO Conference, click here: [link](#).



ON THE MOVE AT ASF FRANCE !

We would like to thank **Elena PICARDI**, **Emma BARBIER** and **Valentin BULARD NAUDET** who were respectively project coordination assistants at head office and caseworkers in Samos (Greece).

We would like to welcome :

- **Eva GACHASSIN**, Project Coordination Assistant at head office
- **Louise LE STER**, caseworker in Samos (Greece)
- **Alexia BOUR**, caseworker in Samos (Greece)
- **Souleymane AIJA**, caseworker in Samos (Greece)

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