



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES  
France

# ANNUAL REPORT 2007

*LA WYERS WITHOUT BORDERS*  
*France*

*VISION: A WORLD OF JUSTICE AND FREEDOM*  
*MISSION: TO SUPPLY PROTECTION OF THE LAW TO THE*  
*WEAKEST*

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## THE WORD OF THE PRESIDENT

ASF France presents to you the report on its activities for the year 2007.

They have been carried out by a team of about 80 volunteers, for a total of approximately 16.000 hours of voluntary work, backed up by our employees in France and abroad.

I wish to thank every one of them, along with the Colombian, Nigerian, Cambodian, Libyan, Bulgarian and Chinese lawyers and legal practitioners who helped us carrying out this task dedicated to Human Rights, to the integrity of the human person and to freedom.

ASF France demonstrates that voluntary work and professionalism can be combined to gain trust and gratitude from both the beneficiaries of our actions and the protagonists of international solidarity.

The year 2008 will be the one of our 10th anniversary, giving an account of our perseverance that can only be explained by a deep anchorage in the creed of justice and freedom.



François CANTIER  
President of Avocats Sans Frontières France

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## PRESENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

### ■ FROM ITS BIRTH TO NOWADAY

The first association **LAWYERS WITHOUT BORDERS** was created in 1992 in Belgium by lawyers coming from different countries who were desirous to enforce the Human Rights. The goal of this association was to secure the defence of every person of whom the fundamental rights are not respected and who cannot benefit from the help of a free and independent lawyer. The first relevant action was set up after the genocide committed in Rwanda in 1994. Lots of European, American and African lawyers thus took part in the keeping of fair and due trials for both victims and accused.

**François CANTIER**, lawyer in Toulouse, decided on his own initiative to found **Avocats Sans Frontières France** in 1998 (Lawyers without borders).

**In 2008, ASF France will celebrate its 10 years old birthday. Thus, 10 years from now, ASFF contributed to enlarge the initial concept by favouring partnership with local actors in order to strengthen the different functions of defence, the right to a due trial and the Rule of Law.**

Registered to the Prefecture of Haute-Garonne in France, this association is governed by the French law on associations and therefore enjoys a juridical personality.

Today, ASF France brings together some 720 members, as private lawyers as well as a large part of the Orders of French lawyers and French professional organizations. It benefits from the support of the Conseil National des Barreaux Français (the National Council of French Bars) and of the Conférence des Bâtonniers de France (the Conference of the French Presidents of Bars) and it maintains close relations with international organizations of lawyers.

Its members have also been able to deserve in the field the trust of national and international organizations with which partnership relations have been set up.

From Cambodia to Nigeria, from Colombia to Libya, ASF France develops support programmes in close collaboration with the civil society and the local authorities in order to help the juridical rebuilding of the ailing countries. By contributing to reinforce the Rule of Law, its members are fighting for the recognition of a right to Justice without borders.

### ■ AN ESTABLISHED RECOGNITION

- **United Nations**

In 2004, ASF France has been awarded the title of NGO with Special Advisory Statute for the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

- **International French-speaking Nations Agency (OIF)**

In April 2005, the International French-speaking Nations Agency awarded to ASF France the Advisory Statute for its activities in partnership with local actors from French-speaking Nations.

- **Presidency of the Commission for Peace, Democracy and Human Rights**

In September 2005, ASF France President François CANTIER was elected President of the Commission for Peace, Democracy and Human Rights by the International French-speaking Nation Agency. This election asserted the presence of ASF France on the world stage and more particularly in the French-speaking area that counts 50 states.

## ■ THE CHARTER OF THE ASSOCIATION

**ASF France** reunites, on the basis of common values, lawyers, jurists and other professionals determined to act in favour of the respect of and the development of fundamental rights.

**ASF France** acts to promote the right of due process and access for all to knowledge of and to the defence of their civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights through the services of a free and independent lawyer, while dedicating particular attention to the rights and defence of groups and individuals most at risk.

**ASF France** strives to intervene anywhere a person is threatened in exercising his fundamental rights and who is unable to obtain the assistance of a free and independent lawyer.

**ASF France** bases its action on the presumption of innocence, the right for all to a free and independent lawyer and the lawyer's oath to provide legal defence with neither prejudice nor discrimination.

**ASF France** struggles for the recognition and respect of the lawyer's role, in accordance with the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, adopted by the United Nations Assembly at the Havana Congress on September 7, 1990, which define their freedom, independence, ethical obligations and the security safeguards and means necessary for carrying out their functions.

**ASF France** takes part, through its existence and its actions, in the defence of fundamental rights, in the establishment and reinforcement of the Rule of Law and in the fight against impunity.

**ASF France** does not take the place of local lawyers nor their organizations, with whom ASF France has no intention of competing, but intervenes alongside them and with their consent, when they are facing difficulties as a result of their professional activity. ASF France establishes and maintains relations of professional solidarity with them. As such, ASF France acts solely when its action serves to reinforce local actors' skills and knowledge.

**ASF France** refrains from taking part in any actions likely to compromise its independence, that of lawyers or its values and principles. As a result, the organization acts free from ties to any pre-existing political, religious or philosophical groups.

All those who act in the name of **ASF France** wholly subscribe to the principles declared above and respect them in both their actions and declarations.

### ON THE BASIS OF COMMON VALUES

#### **The presumption of innocence**

*"Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence."*

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 11 (1).

#### **The right of defence**

*"In the determination of any criminal charge against him, everyone shall be entitled to the following minimum guarantees, in full equality:*

*To be tried in his presence, and to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing; to be informed, if he does not have legal assistance, of this right; and to have legal assistance assigned to him, in any case where the interests of justice so require, and without payment by him in any such case if he does not have sufficient means to pay for it."*

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 14 (3 d).

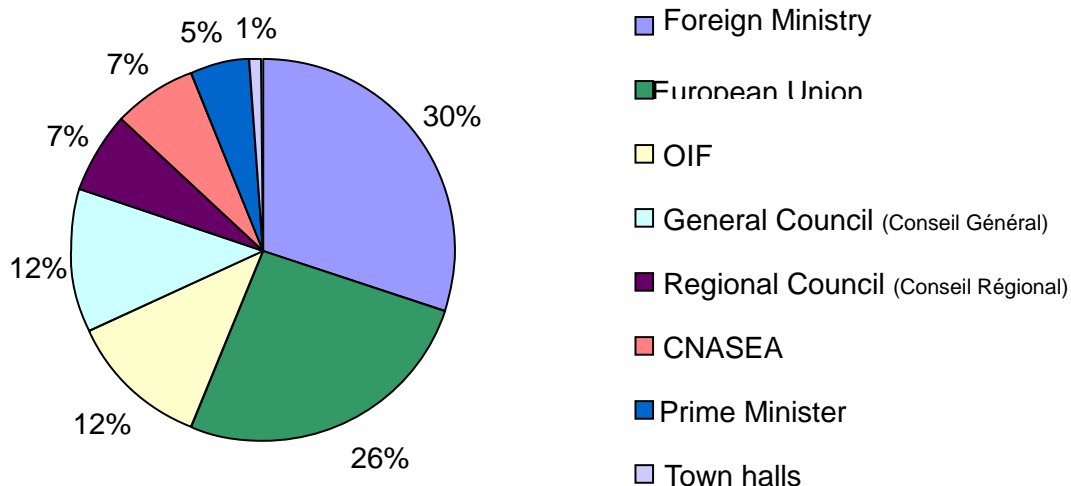
## ■ THE FINANCIAL PARTS IN 2007

### 1. PUBLIC FUNDS

= 443 187 euro

= 71,27 %

= Foreign Ministry, European Union, the International French-speaking Nations Agency, Territorial authorities, CNASEA, Prime Minister, Town halls.

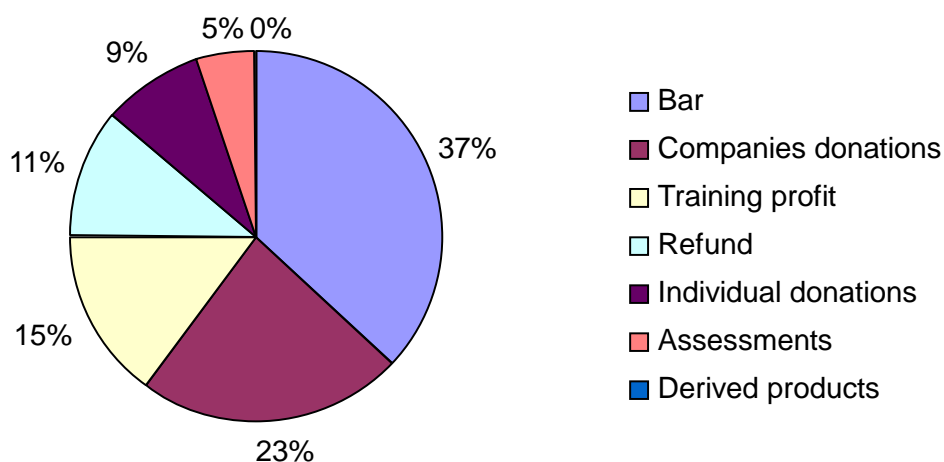


### 2. PRIVATE FUNDS

= 178 681 euro

= 28,73 %

= Bars, companies donations, training profit, refund, individuals donations, assessments, derived products.



## ■ THE OFFICE

**President:**

François CANTIER (Bar of Toulouse)

**Vice-president:**

Catherine MABILLE (Bar of Paris)

**Treasurer:**

Fabienne TRUSSES-NAPROUS (Bar of Tarbes)

**Secretary:**

Gérard DUPUY (Jurist)

## ■ ASF FRANCE TEAM IN 2007

**Manager:**

Hugo MOUDI KI JOMBWE

**Coordinators of the Latin America project:**

Magalie GRASSAUD and Sylvia MOREIRA

**Coordinators of the Africa project and funding:**

Alix ARQUILLIERE

**Coordinator of the Asia project:**

Caroline VAUTRIN

**Financial Managers:**

Alexandre CROIZIERS DE LACVIVIER

**Communication manager:**

Elodie HERISSON

**Trainees and volunteers:**

Aude ROUCH, translation and communication

Yana KOLEVA, manager assistant

Andréa MAURIERES, coordinator project assistant

Dimitra APOSTOLIDIS, secretariat

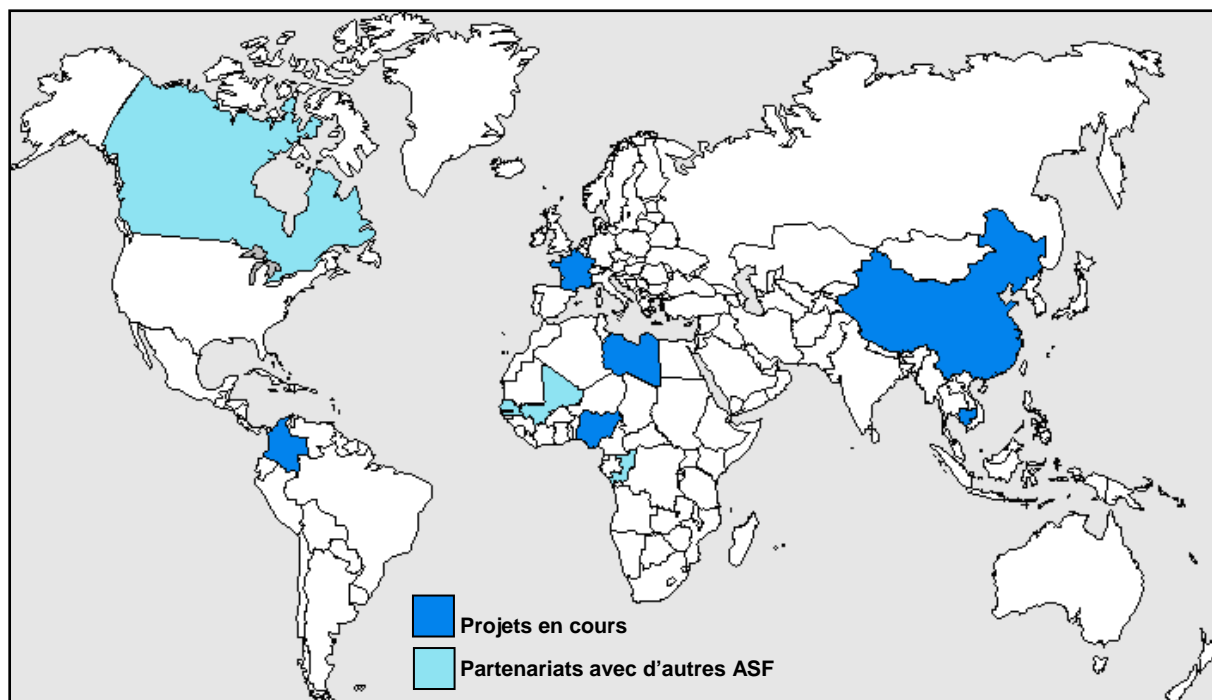
Julia HERAUT, manager assistant

Lydia PACHECO, coordinator project assistant

Bénédicte BOURGEON, coordinator project assistant



## I – ASF FRANCE PROJECTS



**1. Nigeria:** Based on principles of sharing experience and in association with the Nigerian partners, Legal Aid Council and Nigerian Bar Association, ASFF's action in Nigeria targets 3 main objectives: favoring the promotion of the Rule of Law, favor a local jurisprudence and participate to abolish the death penalty.

**2. Francophone Africa:** This project is leaded with the will of ASFF to diffuse and promote Human rights in francophone Africa via the trainers training. Thus, ASFF implements a vast programme of trainers training in Western and Central Africa, which aims, at the end, to train around 200 lawyers and NGO staff of Human rights' defense coming from around ten African countries.

**3. Colombia:** The whole project's actions aims to improve: security (counting of lawyers in danger), independence (professional strengthening of the job) and lawyers' training, but also to make the authorities and the civil society aware of the legitimacy of their function and the necessity of insuring a special protection.

**4. Cambodia:** Since 2004, ASFF participates to the reestablishment of the State of Law by the strengthening of the lawyer's job (training of trainees lawyers), the costless legal aid in favor of the poorer populations and the sensibilisation of the populations isolated from Justice. The will of ASFF in Asia is to strengthen the local abilities and autonomize the judicial system's stakeholders.

**5. Libya:** Defense of the 5 Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian doctor, accused of having contaminated children with the HIV virus. Today, ASFF works to make their innocence recognized and to make the Libyan State responsible of the tortures inflicted upon them during their detention.

**6. China:** Following the warnings received on the situation of the Human rights' defenders in China, ASFF regularly dispatches emergency missions to insure the following-up of 4 lawyers threatened and/or detained lawyers cases by reason of the practice of their profession. By exchanging with local stakeholders, ASFF targets their expectations in manner of Human rights' evolution and of lawyers' protection in order to implement a sustainable collaboration. Today, ASFF is trying to call up the international community.

## ■ NIGERIA PROJECT

Support and backing for the lawyers of accused people incurring death penalty or every harsh, inhuman or degrading treatment



- Trainings
- Following of case

## 1. Why ASFF in Nigeria?

The death sentence by stoning of Amina Lawal for having committed adultery, in 2003, launched the beginning of ASF France commitment in Nigeria.

Indeed, this case, which got a great deal of media attention, shows the gaps of justice in Nigeria:

- The fundamental rules of fair trial and the respect of the rights to defence set up in the Nigerian constitution are not enforced.
- The all three penal systems which are coexisting plan death penalty not only for criminal acts but also, in some states, for acts concerning private life, like adultery.
- The sentences pronounced by the courts Charia: scourging, amputation, stoning represent atrocious, inhuman and degrading punishments in reference with the International Legal Instruments protecting the Human Rights ratified by Nigeria. It is worth noting that the populations always affected by these convictions are the most powerless, including women.

Over and above, the prisons are overcrowded and this is due to the slowness and the weakness of the judiciary process. A lot of prisoners on remand, confessing under torture, rot in prison without nor a case nor a lawyer.

The conditions of detention in these overpopulated jails are lamentable: harsh lack of hygiene, incarceration of minors with adults...

In this context, Nigerian lawyers, through the *Legal Aid Council*, the *Nigerian Bar Association* and local associations, have expressed their needs concerning practical support, training and the sharing of professional experiences, and appealed to the presence of ASF France lawyers by their sides.

## 2. Description of the action

In the framework of this project, 10 missions, since July 2006 have been done, essentially by following-up cases in the prisons of Abuja (Kuje and Suleja), Bauchi and Lafia. In 2007, actions of sensibilisation through round tables gathering all the judicial sector local stakeholders (policemen, magistrates, khadis, lawyers, prosecutors, penitentiary staff, civil society organizations) have completed this following-up cases' work.

The goal is to favour the dialogue and draw reflexion between the systems different's stakeholders in order to identify the blocking points and find solutions.

The activities 2007 have also been completed by training actions for Legal Aid Council lawyers, on its demand, about the use of the international legal instruments protecting Human rights ratified by Nigeria.

## 3. Achievements in 2007

The Nigeria team has carried out 6 missions within 2007, with ASF Quebec or alone.

Composed of two or four people, these following-up cases and training missions took place in January, February, July, September, October and November. The October mission has been particularly important because the operation manager, Siamak Mostafavi, could have stayed about a month and a half on the ground to evaluate the programmes activities, reinforce the links with the authorities and local institutions and initiate the creation of ASF Nigeria.

However, the activities were interrupted in spring 2006, for a few months, because of the general elections followed by violent riots.

The project was split out in four main targets:

- Abuja, and its jails of Kuje and Suleja
- Bauchi
- Lafia
- Lagos and its jails of Kiri Kiri and Ikoyi

The cities where take place the training for LAC lawyers, are also the occasion to visit the prison and organize a round table gathering magistrates, lawyers and other players from the judicial life:

- Enugu
- Ibadan
- Kaduna

Moreover, ASF France has followed the trial of 18 young men, accused of “sodomy” and “roaming” in Gombe, who risk death penalty by stoning.

▪ **Support of lawyers: Identification of cases, constitution of a network of lawyers pro bono and following-up cases in Abuja, Bauchi, Lafia and Lagos.**

- Inspection of jails and meeting with accused or charged people.
- Meeting with local lawyers in charge, through the legal aid, of identified files.
- Sharing out of files between lawyers and clarification of a defense and following-up cases strategy for each file.
- Preparation of the defense files by using the arguments of the interpretation of the criminal charia law if needed, those of a fair trial, Constitution and international treaties ratified by Nigeria.
- Attendance of ASF France members during the most important hearings.
- Elaboration of a database for a systematization of following-up cases.
- **Promotion of fundamental rights and international legal instruments protecting the Human Rights**
- **Training of lawyers of the judicial help** on the international legal instruments applied to the different themes like police custody, the conditions of obtaining the proof, detention, and possible resort in:
  - Enugu
  - Ibadan
- **Organization of round tables and seminars gathering the different player of the local judicial sector** (magistrates, lawyers, policemen, prison staff...) in order to create a dialogue and a reflexion on the fundamental rights theme in:
  - Bauchi
  - Lafia
  - Training LAC: in Enugu, 24 lawyers from LAC have benefit from a 2 days training

**In Ibadan:** 15 lawyers and representative of the Justice Ministry.

The other local players of the judicial life (magistrates, policemen, prison staff, Justice Ministry staff, local Non-Governmental Organizations): 71 players have taken part of reflexion and sharing seminars on fundamental rights respect.

**In Lafia:** on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2006, the round table called “What is the enforcement to the rights of arrested people or prisoner ?” has gathered 12 people, like lawyers, magistrates, representatives from the Bar, Public prosecutor office, Justice Ministry, Police, prison staff, female conditions and social development Ministry and local NGO.

**In Bauchi:** on February the 23th 2007, the round table on Human Rights has gathered 42 people, including the President of Bauchi Bar, the great Khadi from Bauchi, some LAC representatives, magistrates, and lawyers.

**In Enugu:** on July 20<sup>th</sup> 2007, 17 people have participated to a round table on the theme of fundamental rights for arrested people and prisoners, including 9 magistrates and 8 LAC lawyers. The final beneficiaries: around 80 prisoners have benefit from ASF intervention on their file.

#### *4. Perspectives of 2008: Training, Consciousness-raising and favoring the dialogue*

The next 4 missions in Nigeria are expected between January and October 2008, including:

- Following-up cases missions in usual intervention cities: Abuja, Bauchi, Lafia and Lagos.
- LAC lawyers training in Kaduna and Bauchi.
- Organization of a sensibilisation activity of police officers on the fundamental rights in Lafia, through a pilot experience.
- Organization of a conference in Lagos on the subject « Custody and Detention pending trial » gathering the legal laid local stakeholders, that is to say local authorities and civil society organizations.

Besides, there is, on the ground, a student member of the team Nigeria since the month of December and until February for the needs of his thesis on Death Penalty in Nigeria.

Beyond these missions, the year 2008 will be the demonstration of the will to develop the partnerships with the local institutions such as the Nigerian Bar Association, the Ministries of Justice from the countries we are intervening to, and the active civil society organizations in the law sector in order to act in harmony with all these stakeholders.

Likewise, a developing project aiming to systematize and improve the assistance brought by ASFF.

Eventually, ASF Nigeria creation is currently in process, it is the constitution of the Board of Trustees, the equivalent of the Bar Association with the participations of lawyers, magistrates and law professor whose authority is recognized.

#### *5. The project Nigeria's partners*

Project led thanks to the funding agencies' support:

- French foreign Ministry
- Canadian international development agency

Project led in collaboration with:

- ASF Quebec
- Clifford Chance law office

Project led in collaboration with the local partners:

- Nigerian Bar Association
- Legal Aid Council
- Local associations

## *6. The team Nigeria members*

Catherine MABILLE, project manager  
Ivan PANEFF, project assistant manager  
Alix ARQUILLIERE, programme officer  
Delphine MAMOUDY, project manager assistant  
Lydia PACHECO, project manager assistant

Sabah BOUMESLA, operations manager  
Ziyad CLOT, operations manager  
Emilie DE VAUCRESSON, operations manager  
Constance DEWAVRIN, operations manager  
Jean-Sébastien MARIEZ, operations manager  
Siamak MOSTAFAVI, operations manager  
Mathieu ODET, operations manager  
Cécile OSTIER, operations manager  
Haiba OUAISSI, operations manager

Valérie BECKER  
Dominique CHARLES  
Loïc GUERIN  
Clémence HERAULT-DELANOE  
Aurélie LUBOT  
Lionel NJEUKAM  
Gaëlle MAUGIN  
Dako MOZAGBA  
Eleonore PEIFFER  
Elise THIEBAUT  
Avelina VIEIRA

## ■ FRANCOPHONE AFRICA PROJECT

To diffuse and promote Human rights in francophone Africa through the trainers' training



### Concerned countries:

- Central Africa: Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Centrafica Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad.
- Western francophone Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Cost, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo.



## *1. Why ASFF in Francophone Africa?*

ASF France followed very actively the process of the creation of the International Penal Court (IPC) and took part in the creation of the International Penal Bar of which it is member.

Numerous members of ASF France have experience in defence before the International Penal Courts, or, to a great degree, in the judicial processing of international crimes and the most serious violations of the Human Rights.

Thereby, since 2003, in order to share its knowledge and its know-how, ASF France has been setting up trainings in order that the actors protecting the Human Rights could adapt themselves to the particular proceeding of the IPC which allows to accuse persons for genocide crimes, crimes against the Humanity and War crimes. This institution represents a conclusive instrument to fight impunity.

Even though the first trainings took place in France, they aroused the interest of numerous African lawyers and jurists. On their request, trainings on the IPC and the International Legal Instruments Protecting the Human Rights were set up in 2005 in Congo Brazzaville, Mali and Senegal. The success encountered in these three countries confirmed the scope of the demand and the needs.

That's why ASF France with the support of the International French-speaking Nations Agency and in cooperation with the bars, the local lawyers associations and the INGO from the francophone area will create an extend training programme for trainers in Western Africa and Central Africa.

The objective is to train about 160 lawyers coming from around ten countries in Central and Western Africa. Then, around twenty trainers in every region will be able to send back the impact of this training.

The training programme in the International Penal Court and the International Legal Instruments is thus motivated by:

- A strong demand to face the massive violations of the Human Rights.
- The necessary reinforcement of the knowledge and the practices of the African legal actors concerning the International Legal Instruments and the functioning of the International Penal Court to admit a fitted reaction to these violations.
- An insufficient number of trainings as opposed to a strong demand.
- The need to favour the contact and the network of the INGO of the French-speaking area present in these two regions.

## *2. Descriptive of the action*

To face the requirements information on defense for the human rights in central Africa and West Africa, the program suggested will make it possible to constitute a fish pond of experienced trainer-experts, at the same time qualified in the legal and teaching field. This formation with the teaching techniques constitutes the first stage of a complete course of teacher training to the human rights which is then composed of a formation to the legal techniques (international legal instruments protecting Human rights and International penal court) and of one accompaniment to the formation.

It is setting up a double course of trainers' training on Human rights, one in Central Africa, and the other in Western Africa, in 4 stages:

### **▪ Stage 1: trainers' training to educational techniques - 6 days**

To conceive and animate training actions effective and adapted to the targeted group

### **▪ Stage 2: trainers' training to the juridical technique - 7 days**

To control the use of the protective International Legal Instruments protecting Human rights and the procedures of the International penal court.

### **▪ Stage 3: complementary module – 3 days**

To reinforce its competences in animation methods, to control net work



▪ **Stage 4: accompaniment and evaluation: 3 days + 2 days**

- 2 trainings' sessions of 3 days each one exempted by the trainee-trainers accompanied by the ASFF trainers.
- 1 session of 2 days regrouping for the final training's evaluation.

**Beneficiaries of the project:**

The targeted public concerns lawyers and defenders of Human rights, with a number of final recipients ranging between 36 and 40 (knowing that between 80 and 160 recipients will be it indirectly)

**General objectives:**

To reinforce Significantly the capacities of the defenders of Human rights to ensure a better defense of the citizens by a network interdependent and a more systematic recourse to all the international instruments and procedures of protection of Human rights in order to promote a broad diffusion of the principles, values and tools which make it possible to reinforce the Rule of law, democracy and peace.

**Specific objectives:**

- To train lawyers and defenders of Human rights to the use of the international legal instruments and the procedure of the International Penal Court.
- To set up a group of resource people able to provide the trainings themselves in their own countries.
- To facilitate the installation of an interdependent, reactive, regional network and guard of trainers' lawyers and defenders of Human rights.

**Awaited results:**

The trained experts will have:

- Reinforce their professional competences as regards the use of the international legal instruments protecting Human rights and international criminal justice.
- Asset the necessary knowledge and know-how to conceive and animate hands-on trainings intended either for their fellow-members, or for others target on their premises or in the countries of the same area adapted to the specific needs and contexts.
- Constitute a regional network interdependent of trainers and practitioners of Human rights.

### **3. Achievements in 2007**

The first stage of the course of training, which counts 4 of them, is unrolled, for the Western Africa under-area, in Oporto Novo, Benin from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2007 in the buildings of the Higher Regional School of the Magistrature (Summarized). It was the training of teaching methods near 19 trainees coming from 9 countries of French-speaking Western Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo)

**General objectives of the teacher training:**

- To set up a group of resources people able to give in their turn trainings in their respective country.
- To facilitate to the installation of a regional network trainers lawyers and defenders of Human rights.

**Specific objectives of the teacher training:**

- To learn how to conceive training programs according to methods adapted to the targeted public and the goals to follow,
- To learn how to animate and Co-animate very mixed groups,
- To know how to evaluate the effectiveness of their services.

### Profiles of the trainees:

They are lawyers and representatives of organizations from the civil society implied in the defense of Human rights and in the training.

These 19 trainees are coming from the 9 countries mentioned above, including 6 women, that is to say 1/3 of the participants. Each country is represented by 2 or 3 trainees. All the trainees present imply themselves in many activities of training and/or defense of human rights, at the same time near their Bar and organizations of the civil society.

The Bars and the organizations of the civil society involved in the defense of Human rights and the access to justice are represented with equal share. Nevertheless, the COInG of the French-speaking space of the human rights, the Democracy and Peace were privileged.

This group of resource people will follow the whole course; at the end of this training program, they will be capable of providing trainings with the international legal instruments protecting Human rights and in CPI, to take part in the lawsuits in front of CPI (if 10 years of bar, etc), to form a warning network of Human rights defenders in Western and Central Africa.

COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION	NAME OF THE TRAINEE
BENIN	Coalition CPI	Eliane EGUE-ADOTE
	Femmes Juristes	Alice CODJIA SOHOUEYOU
	BARREAU	Elie VLAVONOU KPONOU
BURKINA	BARREAU	Frank TOE
	Femmes Juristes	Franceline TOE-BOUDA
COTE D'IVOIRE	LIDHO	Constant DELBE
	BARREAU	Aïchata KONE
GUINEE	MDT	Kpana Emmanuel BAMBA
	BARREAU	Boubacar SOW
MALI	ASF MALI	Aliou BOUBACAR
	BARREAU	Mamadou SYLLA
	AMDH	Moctar Mariko
MAURITANIE	BARREAU	Bilal ABDEL BARKA DICK
	ASF Mauritanie	Ahmed Salem BOUHOUBEYNI
NIGER	BARREAU	Asmane GOURMOU
	BARREAU	Aïchatou GARBA MAHAMANE
SENEGAL	BARREAU	Borso POUYE
	RADDHO	Amadou Aly KANE
TOGO	BARREAU	Jil-Benoît Kossi AFANGBEDJI
	OPAD	Akouete EDAN

NB: 53% of the participants were representatives of bars  
and 47% of the representatives of non Governmental organizations.

At the conclusion of the 6 days of training, in addition to teaching and methodological competences brought to the trainees, the formation allowed:

- To set up a group of people resources able to provide their own trainings in their respective countries;
- To facilitate the implementation of a regional training network— lawyers and Human rights defenders.

This first phase of training prepares the trainees to receive the technical training (phase 2) then to conceive and animate trainings on Human rights in the under-area.

Although the majority of the participants are involved in trainings actions within their bar or of their association, the 19 participants stated to be unaware of all the tackled subjects (teaching methods), which confirms the real requirement in training for the trainers so that these resource people could provide more effective and more adapted trainings.

#### *4. Perspectives for 2008: The development of the activities*

An estimated calendar was elaborated:

TRAININGS	PLACE	DATE
Juridical technique training (international legal instruments protecting Human rights)	Bamako, MALI	May 2008
Educational reinforcement	Dakar, SENEGAL	September 2008
Education methods training	Pointe Noire, CONGO	Summer 2008
Juridical technique training	Yaoundé, CAMEROON	December 2008

#### *5. The partners of the project Francophone Africa*

The international French-speaking Nations Agency

#### *6. The members of the team Francophone Africa*

Marie-José CANTIER, Project manager  
Caroline LAMBERT DE CESSEAU, Trainer  
Alix ARQUILLIERE, Programme office

## CAMBODIA PROJECT

Revival of the Rule of Law through the reinforcement of the lawyer profession



- Cambodian Capital
- Cities where ASF is present by its lawyers

## 1. Why ASFF in Cambodia?

Many reasons explain the action of ASF France:

- Two decades of civil war which began with the crimes committed by the Red Khmers and which deprived Cambodia of its intellectuals and most of its jurists.
- The Professional Training Centre for Cambodian Lawyers has to face a rising number of young jurists wishing to become lawyers. In 1995, the emerging association of the Cambodian Bar counted 25 lawyers. In 2006, this figure raised to 500 people.
- The state legal aid system experiences dysfunctions. The lawyers are almost all located in the capital, very few practices in the countryside. This situation lead to serious consequences: slow procedures, excessive custodies...
- The juridical context is evolving notably in the framework of a legal system reform began in 2003 which plans the adoption of 8 new fundamental laws.
- The creation of Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodian renders necessary the familiarization of Cambodian lawyers to the international criminal law and to the International Legal instruments protecting Human rights.

Thus, the will of ASF France in Cambodian, as elsewhere, is to strengthen the local abilities and autonomize the legal system stakeholders.

## 2. Description of the action

ASFF and the Bar of Cambodia participate to conferences and workshops together since 1998. The Bar of Cambodia has expressed, since the beginning, its interest for the activities leaded by ASF France.

Since 2005, ASFF participates to the reestablishment of the State of Law by the strengthening of the lawyer's profession and the legal aid in favor of the populations from the countryside through two programmes.

A first training one has been implemented in 2005 over three years. Some project managers, with Cambodian co-trainers, provide trainings for the Professional Training Center of Cambodian Lawyers' young lawyers. These trainings deal with the professional practice of lawyers and with the use of international conventions protecting Human rights, ratified by Cambodia.

A second one began in 2006. It aims to provide a costless legal aid service in every province of the country in favor of the poorer people.

The implementation of these two programmes is achieved thanks to the participation of the projects managers, volunteers lawyers, members of the Cambodia team and thanks to the work provided by the local team on the field in Phnom Penh and in the office in Toulouse.

## 3. Achievements in 2007

### • Programme of young lawyers training

In order to make durable to training programme, a group of resource people has been created since 2005, gathering about fifteen young Cambodian jurists. They have been received a co-trainers' training of 2 days (that is to say a total of 4 days) before every session of young lawyers training.

The goal is to prepare them to co-animate the lawyers training next to French trainers and thus, allow them, at the end, to provide ASFF trainings independently.

In 2007, two co-trainers co-animate the trainers instead of one person the last years.

The goal is to strengthen the co-trainers practice.

Plus, the co-trainers trainings were provided to a bigger number of trainees in order to constitute a bigger group of resource people capable of provide the trainings in a manner independent:

- From the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, training on “the Role of the lawyer” = 17 people trained.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November, training on “the use through the internal law of the international conventions ratified by Cambodia = 19 people trained.

Besides, 2 sessions of trainings of 5 days have been provided to the Professional Training Centre of Cambodian lawyers’ young lawyers from the year 2007 in the Law University of Phnom Penh.

The trainings have been provided by 4 French trainers members of the Cambodian Team, assisted by 2 Cambodian co-trainers:

- The first training took place from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup> 2007 for 44 trainees, on the topic: “*the role of the lawyer*”.
- The second session has been provided from November 12<sup>th</sup> to November 16<sup>th</sup> 2007 to 44 trainees on the topic: “*the use through the internal law of the international conventions ratified by Cambodia*”.

During the trainings, the trainees and trainers went to a hearing in the Phnom Penh Court in order to render the training practical.

The conception of educational instruments for trainings in Cambodia has been achieved by the lawyers and magistrates from the *Cambodia Team*, on the supervisory control of the ASF educational responsible.

To note:

Over three years, ASFF has trained 3 years of young lawyers and more than 15 co-trainers who constitute the group of resource people.

This programme ended on December 2007. A renewal demand has been submitted notably to the French Embassy in Cambodia and to the Foreign Ministry in Paris in order to provide 2 trainings per year for the co-trainers and for the two PTCCL lawyers.

The renewal of the programme is justified by the need of autonomizing even more the co-trainers.

• **Programme for legal aid (LA)**

For 2 years, 25 ASFF Cambodian lawyers located a lawyers’ office in every provincial jurisdictions in Cambodia. They provide a costless defense for the impoverished population.

In exchange, a monthly compensation will be given to them. They also have the possibility to create a private clientele for themselves; the goal is for them, to be at the end capable of providing their profession independently.

The following-up of the programme activities and of the handled cases by the programme lawyers is provided by displacements in the countryside of programme officers, the project manager and the project manager assistant. In 2007, they visited every lawyer located in the countryside and the jurisdictions staff during displacements in January, February, July and November.

In order to support the work and the lawyers from the LA abilities, they have received three trainings provided by ASFF in 2007, under the form of colloquy gathering also other judicial system’s stakeholders.

Like the programme of young lawyers training, some Cambodian co-trainers members of the resource people group co-animate these trainings with the French trainers:

- From January 22<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, the programme lawyers have benefit from a 5 days training in Phnom Penh on the “*Role of the Lawyer*”.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of July, a seminar in Sihanoukville has gathered the lawyers and the Cambodian Bar representative for a 3 days training about the “*Professional ethics code Practice*” (organization of lawyer office, relations between lawyer and magistrate, Professional ethics Code)



The good professional practices and the corruption issue have been treated in full group at the end of the conference.

The inter cultural exchange makes sense. The French trainers can feel some “blocks” from the Cambodian colleagues, because of different social or cultural practices. The experience sharing is here a privileged method to bring the trainees to create the dialogue and invite the most experienced to be the first to enter the conversation.

The last training of the year took place in Siem Reap from November 20<sup>th</sup> to November 22<sup>th</sup>. It was a conference gathering the programme AJ lawyers (23 attended) ; magistrates (7 Court Presidents, 3 Court Vice-presidents and 9 Judges), Clerks (2), Prosecutors (14), that is to say a total of 58 people. The treated topic was the *criminal procedure code guaranteeing a fair trial*.

The opening ceremony was presided over by François CANTIER, ASFF president, around 5 Justice Ministry representatives, notably the Justice Secretary of State, 5 Bar representatives, the lawyers training responsible, the Siem Reap Vice-governor and the International cooperation services representatives (European Union, French Embassy).

The goal of this conference was to create conditions of sharing and dialogue between the judicial sector professionals on the use of their new code of criminal procedure promulgated on June 2007.

At this occasion, the Cambodia group members have developed a new training module. This module deals with the different step of criminal procedure: inquiry and custody, examining, judgments and appeal.

Among the training methods used, there are role-playings. Thus, the professionals have been brought, during these seances, to hold down different jobs: hearings have been presided over by lawyers, pleadings pronounced by magistrates and clerks...

- **The consciousness-raising for population to Justice and to the Role of the Lawyer**

In order to improve the access to justice, it has been necessary to sensitize the population on the role of the lawyer. The trainers went from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> July in 3 orphanages (Kampot, Takeo and Kiep) to sensitize the children to the lawyer profession and to justice. 258 children, aged from 3 to 18, could have thus been sensitized. This activity has been leaded in collaboration with the *School of Human Rights* which has made the educational instruments specially for children: a court miniature and marionettes representing the process stakeholders and the association *Children of Asia*.

The School of Human Rights has provided to the trainers some cutting cardboards which can create the simplified construction of a hearing hall and figurines bound to occupy on this miniature stage the real places of the different characters of a process (judge, prosecutor, clerks, policemen, charged, witness, lawyer, audience.) Thus, the children discovered the attended people and indispensable to the holding of a trial and the role of the lawyer. A suitcase containing a little theater of marionettes representing all the characters of a trial allow the children to palm the characters, to make them as their own physically to make the action evolved in the chronology and purpose of the trial. At every age, children and teenagers have a concept from the notions of fair and unfair and have a true-life situation of this feeling. The method of role-playings revealed amazing discoveries: the children have simulated situations of domestic and parental violence; free brutalities from adults in public places... in the three orphanages, the teenagers have staged cases of trafficking of women and forced prostitution.

The population sensibilisation has also been leaded by the programme LA officers. During their displacements in the countryside, they have distributed information and sensibilisation booklets to inform the people subject to trial about the presence of a costless lawyer in their province; and his address. The information is also dispersed near the villages' leaders who make an important work of relays near the most impoverished villagers.

#### *4. Perspectives for 2008: Sensibilisation, training et autonomization*

ASFF's goal in Cambodia is to follow the young lawyers' training with the goal to autonomize the co-trainers and keep on implementing the legal aid programme by strengthening the abilities of the programme lawyers but also of the other stakeholders of the judicial sector and by developing the sensibilisation activities.

In the framework of the achievement of the new programme of young lawyers' training funding, 2 missions are scheduled on July and November 2008 for the training of co-trainers and of young lawyers in Phnom Penh.

Planned missions in 2008, in the framework of legal aid programme:

February:

- Internal training of 5 days provided for the programme lawyers insuring the legal aid in front of the provinces' courts. Work deepening on the new code of criminal procedure began on November.
- Meeting between the lawyers and courts' presidents in the countryside (round in the provinces to follow the lawyers' work)

July:

- External training gathering the programme lawyers and judicial police officers students (Sihanoukville)
- Sensibilisation of children in 3 orphanages.
- Visiting in province (following-up of lawyers, meeting with the courts' presidents)

November:

- External training gathering programme lawyers and clerks in Siem Reap.
- Visiting in province

Finally, 2008 will be a very important year for ASFF in Cambodia, the team will follow closely the holding of the former Red Khmers leaders trials, accused for some of crime against humanity. The first trial should be hold in the year 2008.

#### *5. The project Cambodia's partners*

Executive partners:

- The Bar association of Kingdom of Cambodia
- Cambodian lawyers' Professional training center of
- The school of Human rights
- Children of Asia – ASPECA

Financial partners:

- European Union
- French Foreign Ministry
- French Embassy in Cambodia
- The French-speaking nations agency
- the 'Pays de la Loire' Regional Council
- the Bar of Nantes



## 6. The members of the team Cambodia

Martine JACQUIN, Programme manager  
 François ROGER, Programme vice-manager  
 Marie-José CANTIER, Trainings manager  
 Caroline VAUTRIN, Programme officer  
 Jean Baptiste De SEZE, Local manager Phnom Penh  
 Sinek NAY, Local manager assistant - Administrator  
 Bunthoeun CHEA, Legal aid programme coordinator  
 Lay MARDI, Legal aid programme coordinator  
 Viravuth NHEK, Legal aid programme coordinator

**Around twelve lawyers volunteers work on this project too: 9 of them have been operations managers in 2007:**

Philippe CANONNE  
 Françoise GAUTRY  
 Daniel LOSQ  
 Christine MARTINEAU  
 Philippe MORICEAU  
 Henri NAYRAL DE PUYBUSQUE  
 Alix PHIQUEPAL D'ARUSMONT  
 Ghislaine SEZE  
 Fabienne TRUSSES-NAPROUS



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## ■ COLOMBIA PROJECT

Defence of the defence rights, support to the lawyer's profession  
through the training and the net creation



● Missions and trainings in Colombie

## 1. Why ASFF in Colombia?

What is characteristic of Colombia is its context, based on an armed conflict and serious violations of the Human Rights and the international humanitarian law. In the face of this situation, the Colombian lawyers -who are the principal bondsmen of the rights to defence and to a fair trial- have a key function to access all the population and particularly the vulnerable groups, as well thanks to their knowledge and the defence of their rights as to the judicial system.

Another difficulty is linked with the change of criminal procedure. Since January the 1<sup>st</sup> of 2005, a new criminal procedure system of an accusatory nature has been gradually substituting the system in effect. Its setting is spread over several years and region per region. In opposition to the lawyers of the *Defensoria Publica*, the independent lawyers do not receive any training nor appropriate documentation.

Faced with these difficulties, the lack of wide and strong professional organizations, either in the form of associations or bar associations, lets the lawyers practising without protection, particularly in the provinces. Moreover, this loneliness makes tough the update of their professional training which prevents them from fulfilling their role in some areas of their activity. The project « defence of the defence » is born to allow the volunteers of ASF France to work with the Colombian lawyers and to help them to face these barriers.

All the actions of this project aim to improve the security, the independence and the training of the lawyers, to establish the legitimacy of their function facing the authorities and the civil society and the need to ensure them a particular protection because of their role in the development of the Rule of Law.

## 2. Description of the action

At the Colombian lawyers in danger request, ASF France has been in Colombia since 2001. A period of diagnostic took place from 2001 to 2003 which enabled to create the programme « Defence of the Defence » led from 2003 to 2006 with the support of the Foreign Ministry.

By defending the lawyers, the project tends to favour the access to Justice, to the knowledge and to the defense of the rights of all the population through the service of free and independent lawyers who enjoy the necessary means and security to practice their professional activity.

- International missions of census and support for lawyers in danger (31 missions)
- Institutional reinforcement of the profession through the creation of a net made up of associations and regional relays and the creation of the House of Lawyer.
- Action of training on professional organization, the use of the International Instruments and especially those concerning the accusatory criminal procedure (42 workshops and seminars)

The gains of this period are relevant and we will sum up them in 5 points:

1. Creation of a data base on threatened, murdered or disappeared lawyers.
2. An international emergency net (professional organizations) is created and gets involved when necessary.
3. A regional relays net, associations or independent lawyers is set in most part of the colombian territory including the most conflicting areas except the Amazonian zone. It enables to collect information and to organize activities in a participative way.
4. The Lawyer Home is working: it administers the nets and the data bases. Work tools have been set up: a material (more than three hundred books not including the subscriptions to legal publications) and virtual documentation centre, educational tools on the key themes for the profession and the legislative following of the fundamental themes for the profession has been begun.

### 3. Achievements in 2007

- **The international missions**

In 2007, the team of the French lawyers volunteers from ASFF in collaboration with the Latin American lawyers has achieved 3 long-extended missions on the whole Colombian territory. Every year, those missions aim to:

1. Count and accompany the Colombian lawyers confronted to security problems.
2. Sensibilise the local and national authorities to the legitimacy of the lawyer function practice and to their duty to insure their protection.
3. Strengthen warning nets and training activities.

- January (TUNJA, BUCARAMANGA and CUCUTA)

2 ASFF members have met the public defenders from Boyaca and Bucaramanga; the regional direction of the public prosecutor office, the regional council of the Magistracy, the office the United Nations High commissioner for Human rights; and the different associations of lawyers and Human rights defenders.

The main conclusions concerned the threatened lawyers and the paramilitary process in Boyaca, the forced displacement and the process of demobilization and re incorporation. A deep work of following-up of threatened lawyers' cases and its sociopolitical analysis has been privileged.

- March (RIO HACHA, MONTERIA, SINCELEJO et VALLEDUPAR)

2 ASFF members have met the various Magistracy directions, the regional public prosecutor offices, many threatened lawyers and local associations defending Human rights. This mission has been one of the most fussy; this is due to the fact that this region is particularly isolated and under the control of paramilitary groups.

- August (BOGOTA, YOPAL et MOCOA)

2 ASFF members went close to Amazonia in order to meet the associations which have solicited ASFF legal aid and access to trainings. An excellent contact has been made in order to satisfy the local demand, notably in terms of training of the lawyers coming from local native communities. Besides, some appointments could have been done with the local judicial authorities in order to fund the upriver researches on the situation of extremely isolated regions in the country.

The collected informations during these missions and related to lawyers in danger cases constitute the annual report's bases on the lawyers' situation in Colombia. The 2007 one is currently printing.

- **The trainings**

In the framework of the programme « Defense of defense » in Latin America, Avocats Sans Frontières France is involved since 2005 in the training and strengthening of the Colombian legal system's stakeholders against the reform of the criminal procedure code which became of an accusatory kind.

The reform of the criminal procedure code thus entered in a manner decentralized and gradual all over the country. The ASFF mission has for stake the complete and professional training of inquiries, interrogatory techniques, hearing and oral defense, in order to guarantee a suitable practice of independent lawyers. Since any national programme plans to train the independent lawyers, all the local partners have solicited the ASFF coaching and expertise all along the implementation of this system, district by district, in every jurisdiction of the country.

In 2007, the new code of criminal procedure became effective in the judicial districts of Pasto, Villavicencio, Antioquia, Neiva, Popayan and Ibagué. And to this, are added additional workshops every year in Bogota, the capital which is the most important nerve center of the national legal system and so, where the needs are the most important.

Eight workshops each of one week, on the reform of the criminal procedure code have been achieved in 2007 and have thus trained a total of 272 lawyers, added to the 1300 lawyers already trained over the last two years.

<i>CITY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>Number of trained lawyers</i>
<i>Bogotá</i>	<i>5 - 10 March</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Pasto</i>	<i>26- 31 March</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>Villavicencio</i>	<i>25- 30 June</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Bogotá</i>	<i>9 -14 July</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Antioquia</i>	<i>23 -28 July</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Neiva</i>	<i>13 -18 August</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>Popayán</i>	<i>27 August -1er September</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Ibagué</i>	<i>3 -8 September</i>	<i>17</i>
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>		<b><i>272</i></b>

Since 2005, ASFF combined with the Defensoria Publica, in order to insure the decentralized professional trainings for independent lawyers, becoming thus the only reference training in this sector in Colombia.

As agreed in the lasting several years agreements, the Defensoria Publica makes its trainers available to the project and plans with ASFF the training actions in function of the schedule of the reform's effectiveness in every district. At the same time, ASFF is in charge of the trainers travel expenses, and insure, besides, the workshops and training seminars coordination, but also the activation and mobilization of its juridical stakeholders net on the whole territory.

- **The emergency net and the Lawyer Home**

The objective of the solidarity fund is to support extreme cases of threatened lawyers in reason of their professional practice, either by welcoming them to the House of Lawyer in Bogota, or by allowing them to leave the Colombian territory for a certain time thanks to our national and international solidarity net and thanks to specific funds. Besides, this fund allows a costless legal aid provided for the murdered lawyers' families who want to go to Court.

In 2007, the solidarity fund has been used to help a Colombian lawyer working in the Pereira area. She found haven during a few weeks in the Lawyer Home and participates to field missions. ASFF gave her an allowance because she could not work and rejoin her region.

Since 2001, we also followed the case of the lawyer Alma Rosa JARAMILLO, murdered in Carthaginian. The following-up of every preliminary procedure from this case has been achieved in order to allow her family to prosecute the presumed responsible of the murder. Today, the process has begun and all the hearings are followed and defended by a Colombian lawyer made available by ASFF.

The Lawyer Home is the operational center of the ASFF activities in Colombia; its services comprise:

- A documentation center
- An emergency net
- A website: [www.casadelabogado-asf.org](http://www.casadelabogado-asf.org)
- A meeting hall of more than 60 rooms for the trainings seminars
- Some laid out rooms, under surveillance 24 hours a day

- **The publications**

### **1/ Annual report « the situation of the lawyers in Colombia »**

Since 2003, the missions achieved have enabled the elaboration of an annual report on the situation of the lawyers in Colombia. The first edition, published in October 2003 in Spanish and French was introduced before the Interamerican Commission of the Human Rights and the second one was published in 2004 in Spanish, French and English. The gathered data were permanently updated; this enabled to draw up the report of 2005-2006, in process of being published (February-March, 2007).

Both the lawyers that we met in the visited areas and the lawyers who have been located living in the cities we visited previously and with whom we keep a permanent relation and during the interviews that we give regularly with the judicial, regional and national authorities in Colombia, and particularly the Human Rights Unit of the Fiscalía (the Prosecutor General's Office). Besides, each mission allows a meeting in the French Embassy in Bogota – privileged technical and financial partner since the beginning of the ASFF programmes in Colombia.

### **2/ Document on the Professional Lawyers Association**

The conference of the lawyers and the seminary of the end of the year gave rise to the elaboration of a work material on the professional lawyers associations and the rights to defence, at the moment in process of being published. Many meetings, conferences and researches took place in the Lawyer Home about a pilot bill written by the Colombian Ministry of Justice.

All the work documents, researches and national and international reference texts have been compiled and published in order to give the lawyers all the juridical instruments and documentaries related to the defense rights practice and the profession organization but also diffuse this dialogue to the project beneficiaries, institutional partners, civil population (notably Law students). Thus, ASFF proceeds to a publication presentation in the Lawyer Home.

### **3/ Code of the Criminal Procedure commented on**

The code has been delivered free. Every trainee in criminal procedure has received a copy. It also has been given to the public defenders, some cooperation agencies and some universities where the events took place. About 600 codes have been delivered. It has to be reminded that, nowadays, this updated work tool, essential for every criminal lawyer is not available for all the law professionals.

## ***4. Prospects for 2008: final phase of trainings on the Accusatory Criminal System and Expertise on the professional training***

1. In 2008, 5 new sessions of training are planned in the last regions of implementation of the accusatory code of criminal procedure. A sensibilisation of the International Instruments use on the victims defense and also on the law “Justice and Peace” mechanism, in the framework of criminal procedure, will be integrated to the trainings planned in 2008.

2. The achievement of an expertise concerning the creation modalities and the implementation of obligatory professional orders for the lawyers is a real success of the background work led by the associative and institutional partners since the beginning of the project.

3. The first Colombian lawyers National Congress took place on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2006 under the spur of ASFF and various professional organizations. A common declaration has been made, wishing the legislative implementation of professional orders and creating a national coordination whose work plan for 2008 has been established, the technical secretariat being insured by ASFF. A new congress is thus planned this year.

4. The international and local lawyers' missions; the solidarity net animation to insure the following-up and the assistance to the lawyers threatened and/or in danger.

## *5. The project Colombia partners*

- French Foreign Ministry
- Prime Minister
- Mayor of Paris
- National Bars Council
- Bar of Lyon, Bar of Marseille, Bar of Val de Marne, Bar of Angers, Bar of Nantes, Bar of Bobigny, Bar of Rouen, Bar of Essonne

## *6. The members of the Colombia team*

Françoise MATHE, Project manager  
Magalie GRASSAUD et Sylvia MOREIRA, Programme officers  
Pascale TAELEMAN, Operations manager  
Flor TERCERO, Operations manager  
Claudio PANDOLFI, Argentine Operations manager  
Adriana GONZALEZ, Colombian Operations manager  
Hélène DIRIBARNE, Operations manager  
Benoît ROUSSEAU, Operations manager  
Pedro MAHECHA, Operations manager

7 members of the project are salaried in Colombia:  
Julia MORA, Coordinator in the field  
Pedro MAHECHA, Lawyer  
Natalia ERAZO, Legal Assistant  
Hasbleidy MUNOZ, Financial Secretary  
Security: Diego ERAZO, Diego ARDILLA and Juan Camilo VILLEGAS





## ■ Emergency mission in Libya

The case of the Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian doctor  
condemned to death and then pardoned after 8 years of fight



©Reuters



## *1. Why ASFF in Libya?*

In 1998, in Benghazi, Libyan children appear being infected by the HIV virus.

On February the 9<sup>th</sup> of 1999, five Bulgarian nurses and a doctor, a Palestinian doctor and eight Libyan citizens are arrested and accused of « aforethought murder » because they provoked « an epidemic by injection of products contaminated by AIDS » in the children hospital al-Fateh in Benghazi.

The eight Libyan citizens are acquitted, the Bulgarian doctor Zdravko Georgiev is sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment and the 5 Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian doctor are sentenced to death by the Benghazi Court in 2004, the 6<sup>th</sup> of May.

ASF France thus decided to offer its support to lawyers in charge of the medical staff's defense to ensure that the defendants benefit from fair trial.

## *2. Description of the action*

In order to provide help to these innocent people sentenced to death, ASFF decided to dispatch renowned scientists and experts as the professor Luc Montagnier, who discovered the AIDS virus, in order that they testify before the Libyan court and reject the possibility of a deliberate contamination. Indeed, several children were infected before the accused begin to work in the hospital, whereas many others had never been cured within the services where the accused used to work.

On December the 25<sup>th</sup> of 2005, the Supreme Court of Libya quashes the decision of May the 6<sup>th</sup> of 2004 and sends back the trial to the Court of Benghazi, which would be in session in Tripoli. The new trial began on May the 11<sup>th</sup> of 2006 in Tripoli.

But on August the 29<sup>th</sup> of 2006, the public prosecutor once again claimed death sentence.

Throughout the trial duration, ASFF actively participated in works conducted by Bulgarian and Libyan lawyers to ensure the defense of the accused, while strongly emphasizing the lack of respect for international texts ratified by Libya about the issue of torture as well as of fair trials.

On December the 6<sup>th</sup> of 2006, the work of a group of scientific experts was published in *Nature* journal, that new element being immediately brought to the knowledge of the Court by ASFF. This report of experts unveils the innocence of the accused through "molecular evidence", by stating that the "probability that the epidemics started after the arrival of the medical staff is almost zero".

On December the 19<sup>th</sup> of 2006, despite these new evidences, the Court of Benghazi sentenced the accused to death.

Facing that decision, ASFF decided to mobilize the public opinion in order to support these 6 innocent persons and help to their release.

The lawyers of the accused lodged appeal and ASFF pursued its fight at their side in the name of respect of defence rights and of fair trial.

### **3 Achievements in 2007:**

- **Actions performed by the defense lawyers**

The appeal trial began on June the 20<sup>th</sup> of 2007.

The Libyan authorities having not issued the necessary visas, the trial was marked by the absence of the defense lawyers from Avocats Sans Frontières France.

- **Communications actions performed in order to raise awareness of the public opinion**

Year 2007 showed a major turning point in the case, especially through the efforts made in terms of communication in order to raise the public opinion's awareness on the tragic situation of these 6 innocent persons.

Thus, ASFF worked to maintain the regular diffusion of communiqués in order to guarantee the information of the national and international press, both on the nightmare lived by these 5 women and this man, who were detained, tortured and raped for more than 8 years in the Libyan jails, and on difficulties encountered by the lawyers of defence in their struggle to save the life of these innocent persons sentenced to death as well.

At the same time, ASFF worked in partnership with Communication Sans Frontières in order to implement a communication campaign for public audience.

These communication efforts, consistent with the numerous other actions managed by associations and committees supporting the 5 Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian doctor, enabled the audience the become collectively conscious of the injustice lived by these 6 individuals imprisoned in Libya.

So, facing political pressure and growing mobilization of international public opinion, on July the 17<sup>th</sup> of 2007 the Libyan Superior Council of Judiciary Bodies decided to commute the death sentence inflicted upon the Bulgarian nurses and Palestinian doctor to imprisonment for life.

On July the 24<sup>th</sup> of 2007, the Bulgarian nurses and Palestinian doctor are officially released after more than 8 long years of procedure and suffering. The accused burst out into joy and showed great relief, as did their lawyers and 4 French defenders, members of ASF France.

The whole world was touched by the nurses and doctor's fate, the international mobilization turned out to be crucial in this case.

- **Actions performed by ASFF in order to favour the release of the Bulgarian medical staff and Palestinian doctor**

The happy conclusion of this case must not lead to forget the 8 years of calvary lived, nor the numerous difficulties encountered by ASFF to apply the rights to justice for all in that country where Human Rights are still too often overridden.

Let us recall that:

- ASFF was solicited in this case at a moment when the story of these 6 detained persons wasn't known yet among the international community.
- ASFF was able to begin a procedure aiming to become the defence lawyers, by setting up a committee of French lawyers
- ASFF had to be faced with numerous hindrances created by the Libyan authorities (visas refusal, violation of the accused' rights, etc.).
- ASFF had to refer the matter to international institutions through informing them on the trial, of violations of the detainees' rights and refusal of the Libyan justice to assert the causes of the epidemics –by setting-up an independent medical expertise.
- ASFF, with the support from these institutions, had to alert the medias, scientific community, political and judicial bodies by putting pressure day after day and restlessly until the conclusion of this case which will remain for ASFF a sorrowful memory.

- **Actions performed by ASFF since the release of the Bulgarian medical staff and Palestinian doctor**

After being effectively released on July the 24<sup>th</sup> of 2007, ASFF maintained a regular contact with the 5 Bulgarian nurses Valya Chervenyashka, Nasya Nenova, Valentina Siropulo, Kristiana Valcheva, Snezhana Dimitrova, and the Palestinian doctor –now naturalized Bulgarian citizen- Ashraf Joumaa al-Hajouj.

The President of ASFF met the medical staff in the immediate aftermath of their liberation. At this occasion, the latter shared their wish to go in France, in order to meet and thank all organizations and individuals who supported and helped them during these 8 years of calvary in Libya:

- Avocats Sans Frontières France
- Town Hall of Toulouse
- Town Hall of Paris
- Bar of Paris
- Europe Council
- SIBEL committee
- Communication Sans Frontières
- And still many more...

Thus, the team of ASFF worked for weeks to prepare their arrival in France, expected to happen on December the 10<sup>th</sup> of 2007. Indeed, this date had been chosen for its symbolic value, being the anniversary date of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Unfortunately, and at the highest pitch of cynicism, the President of the French Republic then on commercial agreements with Libya chose that same date to invite colonel Kadhafi as his guest on the French soil.

As consequence of this sad coincidence, the day before their arrival in France, the 6 guests of ASFF informed the association that –though with deep regrets- they had to cancel their visit in France.

So, whereas the French community was getting ready to celebrate the arrival of these 6 persons, now very media-related, ASFF had to inform it of the cancelling of their trip to France in a communiqué.

One of the nurses explained it by herself: “We do not want the assassin and his victims to cross path in Paris”.

Nevertheless, this visit has been postponed do a later date, in order to guarantee their serenity and with all due respect for the hardships they had to suffer from.

#### ***4. Prospects for 2008: struggling for the recognition of their innocence***

On December the 12th of 2007, Avocats Sans Frontières France lodged a complaint against the colonel Kadhafi and 5 high-level policemen for « acts of rapes and tortures ».

This complaint has been lodged, through filing a civil suit, on demand of the Palestinian doctor, Ashraf Joumaa al-Hajouj, who declares having been submitted to electricity torture and sexual assaults.

Today, the procedure is still in process.

At the same time, ASF France’s lawyers work to state recognition of the medical staff’s innocence. Indeed, these are free since July the 24<sup>th</sup> of 2007 because of the Bulgarian State’s mercy, insofar that does not mean they were recognized as innocent of charges they were accused, and for which they were sentenced to death on two occasions.

Thus, Avocats Sans Frontières France reiterated its support to the victims and expressed again its full determination to assist them by all legal means until the recognition of their innocence, this being the last wish of these 6 persons destroyed by a terrible injustice...

## *5. Partners of the emergency mission to Libya*

**The project is managed in cooperation with:**

- National Council of Bars
- Bar of Paris
- Conference of the presidents of the Bar
- Town Hall of Toulouse
- Town Hall of Paris
- Europe Council
- SIBEL committee
- Communication Sans Frontières
- Ensemble contre la Peine de Mort

## *6. Members of the emergency mission in Libya*

François CANTIER, defence lawyer

Antoine ALEXIEF, defence lawyer

Ivan PANEFF, defence lawyer

Elodie HERISSON, in charge of the communication and press-relations

Elise THIEBAUT, journalist, communication specialist

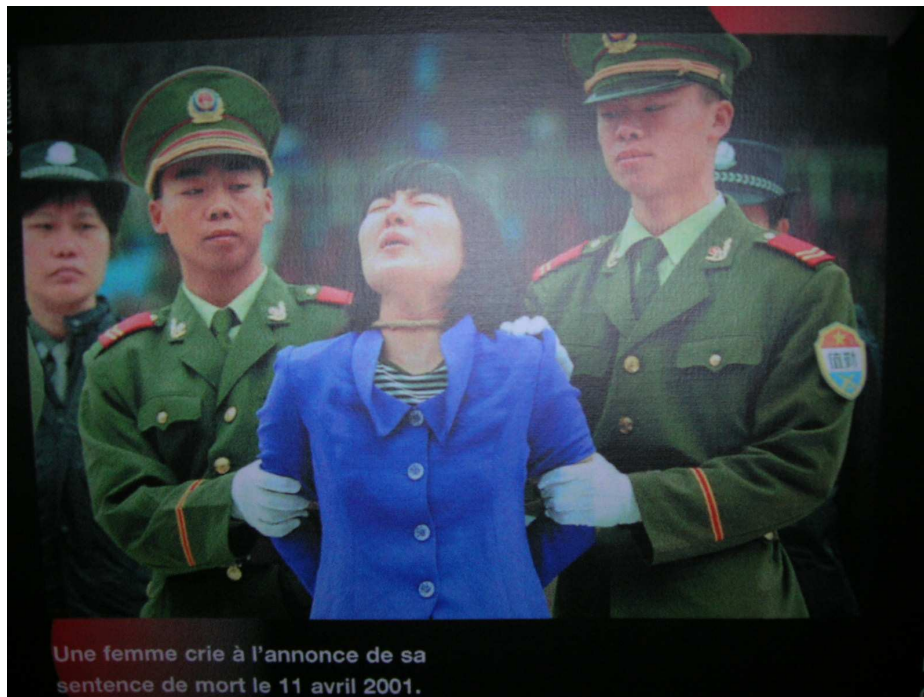
Yana KOLEVA, assistant of François CANTIER, in charge of the case

Julia HERAUT, assistant of François CANTIER, in charge of the case



## ■ Emergency mission in China

To defend Chinese Citizen  
And to support the defenders of the Human Rights



©Reuters

## *1. Why ASFF in China?*

Following China's large number of attacks on Human Rights, ASFF has decided to react

- **Death penalty:** China executes more prisoners each and every year than the rest of the world. Around 10 000 executions a year.
- **Torture:** inflicted on detainees because of their activities in favour of Human Rights.
- **Re-education** by forced labour: detentions decided by administrative authorities, without either charges or trials, in very difficult conditions.
- **Repression** and offences to the freedom of expression.
- **Persecutions** linked to government banned religious beliefs.

First in February, then in October 2007, ASFF members would meet Chinese lawyers in Paris: Mo Shaoping, Li Jinsong and Teng Biao.

These three lawyers are impersonating fundamental rights defence in their country.

During these meetings, the three Chinese Human Rights defenders have expressed their needs of exchange and sharing of knowledge and experience with occidental colleagues. By the same occasion, they have broken the news on the state of deep isolation they were in and they suffered from. In the end, they have alerted ASFF members on the hardships they were facing in the practise of their profession because of the absence of independence of the profession and of justice in general.

For all these reasons, ASFF has decided to answer to the Chinese lawyers' call, to help them, and, by the same occasion, try improving Human Rights respect.

## *2. Description of the action*

ASFF's main goal in China is to contribute to the providing of legal defence to the sued citizens in order that they can exercise their liberties, that are nonetheless constitutionally recognized, and back up their defenders (backing up lawyers facing hardships because of the practise of their profession and helping them out of their isolation by developing a cooperation with them).

ASFF President François CANTIER explains: “The Human Rights situation in China is a difficult one. To ASFF, it means men and women proclaiming their liberties, that the regime tries to put aside by judiciary procedures. We must help them! The right of interference and the duty to protect are now acquired.”

## *3 Achievements in 2007*

To materialize the axis of cooperation that were brought up, ASFF has dispatched an emergency mission to China from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007. Its double aim is:

1. An estimation of needs, and of the feasibility of this project to exchange with and back up the Chinese lawyers threatened in the practise of their profession; and the development of contacts to reach this aim.
2. An emergency intervention aiming at obtaining pieces of information on several lawyer, persecuted because of their involvement in some “delicate” files such as : Gao Zhisheng, Li Heping, Wang Sen and Chen Guangcheng.

ASFF Heads of Mission Michèle STERN and Siamak MOSTAFAVI have met colleagues, academics and NGO's and Non Governmental institutions' representatives in Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing and Hong-Kong.



The Chinese lawyers have repeated their wish of cooperation with occidental lawyers on the fields of defence rights, professional and ordinal practices and Human Rights.

So, the idea is to materialize this cooperation by a cycle of conferences.

In the end, it is important to highlight the fact that the Chinese lawyers, who were met during this mission, couldn't talk freely about the cases evoked, fearing repression of their country's authorities.

#### *4. Prospects for 2008: To improve the defence*

Three axis of intervention have been identified :

1. Immediate defence actions.
2. Organization of conferences and training activities.
3. Development of a network and mutualisation of the data.

The organisation of a first conference appears as the most appropriate way, as a preliminary step of a work in China, so as to allow ASFF members to familiarize with the environment.

This conference's preparation will allow to communicate and work on the field with Chinese lawyers on the cases they brought to the attention of ASFF voluntary lawyers.

#### *5. Partners of the emergency mission to China*

The Economic Interest Group Lawyers (GIE Avocats):

- National Council of Bars
- Bar of Paris
- Conference of the presidents of the bar

#### *6. Members of the emergency mission in China*

Michèle STERN, project manager

Siamak MOSTAFAVI, volunteer lawyer

Ivan PANEFF, volunteer lawyer

Diane SENECHAL, volunteer lawyer

Anne FONTANILLE, volunteer lawyer

Aude KESZLER, volunteer lawyer

Christine MARTINEAU, volunteer lawyer

Delphine MAMOUDY, volunteer lawyer

Lydia PACHECO, lawyer student volunteer





## II – THE CONTINUE AND PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS OF ASF FRANCE

### Avocats Sans Frontières France

#### Calendrier des Formations 2007

Instruments Juridiques Internationaux -IJI  
 Cour Pénale Internationale  
 Formation de Formateurs IJI Fondamentaux  
 Formation de Formateurs IJI Renforcement  
 Formation de Formateurs IJI Consolidation



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES  
 France

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ASF France, 35 rue Ozenne, 31000 Toulouse – tél. + 33 5 34 31 17 83 – fax +33 5 34 31 17 84

## ■ The local stakeholders professional training

In addition to its status of international solidarity organization, ASFF is recognized as a training organism recognized by the French Ministry of Social Policy, Labor and Solidarity (authorization n°73310334631).

The training constitutes both an instrument aiming the local partners' autonomisation and a privileged instrument allowing the association to develop the quality and the effectiveness of its actions.

### *1. The training set in two axis*

1. The training which fully belongs to the programmes ASFF is developing in different countries are destined to the local Law and Justice practitioners and are built on the basis of a double objective: strengthening the local stakeholders' abilities and their autonomisation.
2. The continuous trainings of the practitioners intervening in ASFF action. All the ASFF actions' stakeholders intend a training curriculum allowing to constitute a common base on ASFF methodology of intervention and to strengthen the interventions' effectiveness.

### *2. The training curriculum has three main topics*

- **Trainers' training**

The Avocats Sans Frontières France stakeholders participate to missions, most of the time outside their own borders. The trainers' training allows to provide for them the methodological instrument and the control of the adults' specific pedagogy.

It also permits to prepare them for the intervention in different situations by the initiation to the intercultural « negotiation ». In the contexts of ASFF intervention, a knot of local stakeholders is generally trained to become trainers in order to follow the goal of local partners' autonomisation.

The complete trainers' training has three levels:

- Level 1: THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS.  
This level allows to get the essential bases to the training action and to differentiate it with practices such as teaching, conference, etc.
- Level 2: THE REINFORCEMENT.  
It allows to develop the abilities to conceive a training, to set out the specifications of training and to implement it.
- Level 3: THE SKILLS' CONSOLIDATION.  
It allows to perceive its practice of trainer and improve it.

- **Training on the use of International Legal Instruments protecting Human rights**

The international texts protecting Human rights have the distinctiveness to not simply create reciprocal duties between States like the classical international treaties, but real duty from the State to the individual, who can use it in front of the national and international jurisdictions.

The training on that topic prepares the law and justice practitioners to identify these texts, know their content and their use in front of the national and international treaties appropriated. This formation allows also ASFF to promote the Human rights principles, which are in the heart of its action.

- **Training on the intervention in front of the international criminal jurisdictions and mainly the international penal court**

Avocats Sans Frontières France, through some of its members, has gained a knowledge and know-how useful in the international criminal jurisdiction sector. The regular intervention of the lawyers' members of the association in front of these entreaties, since the first hours, has allowed to develop an expertise on the effective procedures in front of these jurisdictions.

The training on the International Penal Court allows to share this expertise with other practitioners who wish to intervene in front of these jurisdictions or who are interested in it. It allows notably the lawyers to be able to adapt themselves to the particular procedures of the International Criminal Courts and the IPC, very different from the one they already know.

Avocats Sans Frontières France has developed a real educational engineering adapted to the adults' training and the techniques of group animation. Thought like a training-action, it calls specific educational methods, dynamic and interactive which allow the trainees to optimize the learning of knowledge and know-how useful to their own practice. The trainers are still practitioners, having a rich and strong experience, who are dealing with other practitioners. They are professional trainers or Law practitioners who have followed the trainers' training and unanimously known in their practice sector.

## ■ ASFF TRAININGS: achievements in 2007

### 1. ASF France trainings' calendar in 2007

The chart of implementations presented below does not incorporate the trainings carried out in the specific frame of ASFF's international solidarity missions. These specific actions are presented in the developments concerning their respective programs in the present report.

Name of the training	Dates of the training	Number of days	Numbers of trainees
<b>Trainers' training: the fundamental basis</b>			
Session 1	16-17 february and	4	20
Session 2	16-17 march		
	23, 24, 25 et 26 may	4	16
Session 3	12,13 et 19,20 october	4	3
<b>Trainers' training: Reinforcement</b>			
Session unique	29, 30 november et 1 <sup>er</sup> december	3	14
<b>Training International Legal Instruments</b>			
Session 1	27 april et 4 may	2	9
Session 2	5 et 6 october	2	14
<b>Training International Penal Court</b>			
Session 1	26, 27, 28 april	3	5
Session 2	22, 23 et 24 novembre	3	21
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>102 trainees</b>

### 2. Report of the training actions in 2007

The year 2007 has been one of the richest for the training. Besides the actions described, we need to add the preparatory trainings' actions of the training missions in the programmes Cambodia, Nigeria and Francophone Africa.

During these coaching sessions, more than 30 ASFF stakeholders have benefit from the supervision and the supervisory staff from the training team headed by Marie-José CANTIER, specialized in educational engineering.


The mentioned trainings have also been an appropriated framework of cultural interactions with a strong diversity of trainers and trainees coming from: Algeria, Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Comoros, Congo, France, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal.

- **From the trainers' point of view,** Most of the trainees attending to the trainers were very motivated which represents a positive point for our association in terms of human resources as well for the missions as for the all the real job made to develop a project. These trainings offer the opportunity to get in touch and to exchange rich competences as well for the project managers as for the subscribers not yet involved but who would like to develop their actions
- **From the trainees' point of view,** On a scale going from 1 (not satisfy at all) to 6 (very satisfy), the trainees gave an average mark of 5 for the whole trainings in which they took part. About 65% of the trainees consider themselves able to use the training skills in the field, against 18% who consider that they need more practice.

## ■ ASFF TRAININGS: prospects for 2008

**AVOCATS SANS FRONTIÈRES France - Formations 2008**

**LÀ OÙ LA DÉFENSE N'A PLUS LA PAROLE...**



**11-12 avril :**  
Formation aux Instruments Juridiques Internationaux (IJI)\* - à Toulouse

**21-22-23-24 mai :**  
Formation de Formateurs aux IJI (niveau 1) - à Sommières

**05-06-07 juin :**  
\* Formation aux procédures de la Cour Pénale Internationale\* (CPI) - à Toulouse

**10-11 octobre :**  
Formation aux Instruments Juridiques Internationaux (IJI)\* - à Paris

**6-7-8 novembre :**  
Formation de Formateurs aux IJI (niveau 2) - à Paris

**20-21-22 novembre :**  
\* Formation aux procédures de la Cour Pénale Internationale\* (CPI) - à Paris

\* formations homologuées par le CNB

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### 1. Calendar of the trainings for 2008

TRAINING	LEVEL	DATES
Training of Trainers on the International Legal Instruments	Fundamental Basis	7,8 March and 11 April in Paris
	Fundamental Basis	21, 22, 23, 24 May in Sommières
	Reinforcement	October 24, 25, 26
Training International Legal Instruments	1 <sup>st</sup> session	April 11 and 12
	2 <sup>nd</sup> session	October 10 and 11
Training International Penal Court	1 <sup>st</sup> session	June 5, 6 and 7
	2 <sup>nd</sup> session	November, 20, 21 and 22

Above the **trainings schedule** planned for the year 2007. ASF France suggests to the **Bars of France** to provide trainings « custom-built » according the needs previously expressed by the interested professionals, which are basically two new topics:

1. The application of the right to a due process rules
2. The use of the Human rights European convention in internal and European law.

## 2. Reinforcement of the abilities

The training represents the main line of the development of ASF France. The association wanted its members to be trained as well on the legal area as on the educational area because they will lead particularly delicate missions. The trainings ensure the good functioning and the success of a project. That's why they represent the step before every commitment in our actions.

The trainings provided to small groups aim thus to prepare the lawyers for their intervention before foreign or international jurisdictions and to take part in the training of lawyers and practitioners of countries in which ASF France develops its missions.

Trainings concentrated on the functioning of the association are also available.

Not only are all the employees of ASF France encouraged to take part in the trainings provided by the association but to follow the professional trainings fitted to the needs of everyone as well.

- Hugo Moudiki JOMBWE, Manager:
  - o Trainers' training level 1 and 2: 50 hours
- Caroline VAUTRIN, Coordinator of the project Asia:
  - o Trainers' training level 1 and 2: 50 hours
- Alix ARQUILLIERE, Coordinator of the project Africa:
  - o Trainers' training, level 1: 28 hours
- Elodie HERISSON, Communication manager:
  - o Training webmaster, creation and animation of web site: 15 hours
  - o Participation to « boxes of communication: communication techniques adapted to the associative world »: 14 hours
- Alexandre CROIZIERS DE LACVIVIER, Financial manager:
  - o Associations management: 130 hours.

In order to continue these efforts of professionalization of each member of the team ASF France, the employees will attend to trainings all over the year. At the same time, the team may benefit from a partnership with Microsoft France, and international law offices such as Clifford Chance and Allen & Overy.

The staff trainings will aim the projects management, evaluation, financial researches, human resources management, and the associations' management. Linguistic and multimedia trainings might be provided in case we need it.



## III – Events ASFF

### ■ Events in 2007

**By organizing or participating to the “Human rights” events, every year ASFF fits into the international solidarity net**

#### *1. Third world congress against the death penalty*

ASFF participated to the third world congress against the death penalty which took place the 1st and 2nd February in Paris.

During the congress, a focus has been made on “the business of the Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian doctor imprisoned in Libya” in the presence of members of ASFF, of T.Hammarberg, Commissaire to the Human rights of the Council of Europe and Dr. D.Butler, Reporter nature magazine. This meeting made it possible to lawyers present to touch the public opinion and the media by calling upon the problems involved in this business, like the responsibility for the Libyan authorities, the non-observance of the rights of defense and the absence of fair trial and right while pointing out the economic issues and policies.



Among the topics approached, there was that of the role of lawyer towards the death penalty. On the ethics, moral and professional plans. Several lawyers evoked their current combat for the abolition of the capital punishment, giving for examples of the cases of judgment in many countries like the United States, China, Mauritania or Japan. Avocats Sans Frontières France benefitted from it to evoke its intervention in Nigeria, where the death sentences are daily, while giving a help and a support for the lawyers who defend condemned to the capital punishment.

The assessment of this congress revealed that the lawyers have a key role as regards defense of the human rights, but one should not forget either the considerable support of the media and the civil society for the international organizations working for the human rights’ defense. They are the bond which makes it possible to rejoin the public with the causes defended by these organizations.

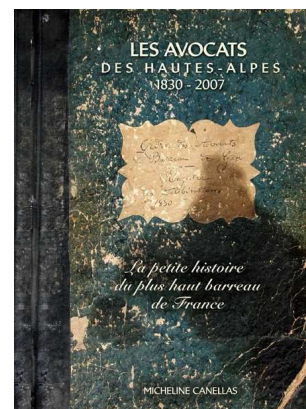
#### *2. The Day of the associations*

On July 3, ASFF took part in the day of the associations organized by the Bar of Paris. Association had a stand to present its activities mainly to lawyers of the Bar of Paris, come there to follow formations. This participation allowed ASFF the maintenance of good relationships with the Bar of Paris, and thus consequently to give opportunity of the visibility on its actions near Parisian lawyers. Moreover, this day made it possible to the members of association present this day to meet there the other stakeholders of community life related to the Bar of Paris, with an aim of weaving new bonds.



### 3. Presentation of the Bar of Hautes Alpes' book

On September 11, the Bar of Hautes-Alpes published a book: "Little story of the highest Bar of France". The President of the Bar, Mrs Micheline CANELLAS carried out a work recalling the life of the Bar of Hautes-Alpes of 1830 until now. The Lawyer profession knew, as well as the civil society, an evolution and a major modernization during the last decades. For as much, the Bars of France, and more particularly the Bar of Hautes-Alpes, do not wish to disregard their sources. The Bar of Hautes-Alpes, which fully contributed to the construction and modernization of the profession, has indeed a rich history, marked out with anecdotes. The entirety of the benefit related to the marketing of this work will be transferred to the association Avocats Sans Frontières France: "The task for ASF France is still long, we modestly hope to help them". This initiative of the bar of the Hautes-Alpes could testify at the same time to its solidarity towards ASFF but also, and consequently, of its engagement in favour of the human rights.



### 4. Release of the movie: the Judge Feng's Last Trip

A Liu Jie's movie – Coming out on October 3rd 2007

A travelling court follows the sinuous ways of the area for its annual round. Feng, around fifty, is the judge. His assistant Aunt Yang, of the Moso tribe, is the day before her retirement. They are accompanied by the young judge Ah-Luo judge, of the Yi tribe which makes its first round. They travel in company of an old horse which transports the files and all their things. In a Pumi village, Feng must resolve a problem about a tomb ransacked by pigs. Ah-Luo loses inopportunely the national symbol, the symbol of the authority of the state in the pigs' trough, the judge and his team must ask for help to the chief of the village. ASFF has been solicited to sponsor the release of this splendid feature film on the history of a travelling judge in China.



### 5. Boards of Directors and Offices of ASFF stakeholders

In 2007, large gatherings, such as the Board of directors, General Assembly and other work meeting made it possible to the stakeholders of ASFF to meet in order to think together about the becoming of the association

- **Board of directors - 24/04/07: Assessment of the association activities 2006**
  - Presentation of the new manager of ASFF Hugo JOMBWE-MOUDIK
  - Report of the activities 2006 of association and focus on the projects
  - Prospects: installation of new projects
  - Partnerships, assessments and prospects
  - Presentation of the partnership with the School of the Human rights
  - Proposal made with the GIE of the French bar to constitute emergency funds
  - Proposal of the office: some tools to improve the follow-up of the projects
  - Coordination of the various actions of ASFF
  - Actions of communication: which assessment and how to improve them?

- **General Assembly – 27/10/07: Action plan for 2008**
  - Presentation of the moral report/ratio of the year 2007
  - Presentation of the accounts 2006 and the financial position of 2007
  - Action plan for 2008
  - Election of the members of the Board of directors
  - Enclose of the General meeting
- **Meeting of the stakeholders - 15 et 16 /09/07: work directed on the projects in progress**

This two days retirement gathered all the volunteers and employee of ASFF participating in the actions of ASFF. It was consisted by moments of reflexion, propositions and actions on the major topics of Association.

- **Board of Directors - 27/10/07: Election of the association president**
  - Election of the president
  - Dialogue on the action plan
  - Various questions

**Let us note finally, that thanks to the financial support of volunteers and the work of the ASFF communication department, the association has now a new website:**  
**[www.avocatssansfrontieres-france.org](http://www.avocatssansfrontieres-france.org)**

## ■ Events in 2008

The year 2008 will be action-packed: ASFF will simultaneously celebrate the 60 years of the HRUD and its own 10 years...



### *1. The manifestations ASFF will attend*

2008 will be a major year in the association's history.

This year will be marked by many events (seminars, conferences, forum, conferences, etc) on the set of topic of Human rights. ASFF will be present as often as possible and will benefit from its presence to gather around the stakeholders from the sector judicial and juridical national and international in order to celebrate with them its 10 years of existence and action.

- **ASFF will take part of the various conferences and international meetings:**
  - **13/03/08: To celebrate the day of the woman, the Middy-Pyrenees District council organized a conference.**  
 The main theme will be "Women and Religions".  
 To the sides of other associations, ASFF, in the presence of its President Me Cantier will present the experiment of association on this set of themes. In 10 years of existence, ASFF has, with many recoveries, had the occasion to measure the impact of the religion on women. Thus, Me Cantier will benefit from it to make a focus on the case of the Nigerian women in the States of the countries governed by the Islamic laws of Charia
  - **30/06/08: ASFF participera au Forum mondial des Droits de l'Homme à Nantes.**  
 ASFF will take part in the World forum of the Human rights in Nantes. This forum aims to contribute to the constitution or the reinforcement of the solidarity nets essential to the protection, respect and application of Human rights, in the whole world. This meeting benefits from the support of the Ministries for the European and Foreign affairs and the International French-speaking Nations Agency
  - **From the 16 to the 18 of August: ASFF will participate to the 4<sup>ème</sup> lawyers national Convention in Lille.**  
 Avocats Sans Frontières France will intervene in this forum by the means of its president, François Cantier.

- **Lastly, the date of December 10 will be marked by the sixtieth birthday of the universal declaration of Human rights**, and for this occasion, ASFF will join the School of the Human rights in order to celebrate this event on the whole territory.

- **The birthday of the association:**

- The April 27th will mark the 10 official years of the creation of the association Avocats Sans Frontières France.
- During October, a great celebration will be organized in Toulouse— with an aim of celebrating the 10 years of the association's existence. The general objective of this birthday will be to make known our current and last actions carried out through the five continents  
More precisely, our specific objectives are:
  - To make known the professionals and the public opinion the actions of solidarity undertaken by ASF F,
  - To interest the economic operators in the regional and international levels of the support of our future actions
  - To develop partnerships with associations, institutions, and the economic world on the national and international levels.

## ***2. The team of the headquarters in 2008***

**Manager:**

Hugo MOUDIKI JOMBWE

**Coordinator of the project Latin America and Training Manager:**

Sylvia MOREIRA

**Coordinator of projects and financing:**

Alix ARQUILLIERE

**Coordinator of the Cambodia project:**

Bénédicte BOURGEON / Aurélie CEBE

**Financial manager:**

Alexandre CROIZIERS DE LACVIVIER

**Communication manager:**

Elodie HERISSON

Finally, let us underline the presence in the office of many trainees and volunteers who work alongside the employees throughout the year and who bring a considerable help to the Avocats Sans Frontières France team.