



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES  
France

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014



*"Là où la défense n'a plus la parole"*



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# WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEATH PENALTY : "The special and eternal sign of barbarism" said Victor HUGO.

The year 2014 was marked by a successful fight against death penalty for ASF France. We appealed twice to the Court of the Economic Community of West African States regarding two Nigerian citizens.

The first appeal was about a young woman sentenced to death in 2012 for acts she allegedly committed when she was a minor.

In June 2014, the Court declared that she could not be sentenced to death because she was a minor, and it would represent a violation of article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Court sentenced the Nigerian state.

This decision allowed the young woman release from death row.

The second case concerned an inmate who had been sentenced to death in 1995.

He was nearly executed in 2013.

In June 2014, the Court ordered the Nigerian Government to release him from death row finding that his fundamental rights had been breached.

These two victories against barbarism fully justify our commitment.

There is still so much left to do, let us keep fighting.

Catherine D. MABILLE



Catherine D. Mabilille

President of Avocats Sans Frontières France

# OUR ORGANISATION

Founded in 1998, Avocats Sans Frontières France is an international solidarity organisation that protects fundamental human rights.

## STRENGTHENING OF THE RULE OF LAW

We intervene all over the world to support the rule of law and the right to a fair trial. Our primary goal is to support and act alongside local actors.

## ACTING IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE AND FREEDOM

We defend those whose fundamental rights are threatened and who do not have access to a free and independent lawyer. We also provide support to lawyers and human rights advocates who are under threat due to their professional activity.

## ASF FRANCE: FIGURES

- **Raising awareness among around 400 key actors** on the abolition of the death penalty in Nigeria.
- **In 2014 alone, around 1230 inmates** benefited from free legal consultations in Cameroon, Mali and Nigeria.
- **17 international projects.**

# OUR ACTION STRATEGY

## DEFENDING CITIZENS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES

ASF France provides emergency defence to those whose fundamental rights are threatened and who do not have access to an independent lawyer. ASF France also intervenes on behalf of lawyers facing intimidation because of their profession: threats, imprisonment, murder. By protecting lawyers, we help to ensure access to justice for all.

## PROMOTING THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Promoting access to justice is one of our priorities, that is why we take part in establishing legal and judicial aid systems. With this in mind, we participate in giving legal assistance to the most vulnerable people where it is nonexistent : provision of legal services (itinerant or settled consultations), strengthening legal systems, raising awareness among populations and legal actors...

## EMPOWERING LOCAL ACTORS

ASF France provides initial and continuing education to local actors, tailored to their needs and specific issues that they face. Our goal is to provide them with a sustainable and long-term development of their personal and professional skills.



# OUR PROJECTS

*Pages 6 to 19*

# CAMEROON

Project carried out from  
December 2010 to June 2014

## DIDE : Dignity in Detention: Promoting respect of the rights of people imprisoned in Cameroon.



We provide information to inmates and raise awareness among Cameroonian judges and support staff about respect for fundamental rights. The aim of our project was to ensure effective judicial assistance to the most vulnerable.

### TESTIMONIES

#### **Patricia Ndjandjo, project coordinator :**

« I am particularly delighted with the awakening of the culture of respect for inmates' dignity that was present during the implementation of the DIDE program. The visits of the ASF France teams to prisons revived the hope of several inmates of finally seeing their cases brought to light.

I remember the phone call from Mr. Sonne Marcus in January 2014, placed in a special cell, who had called me to encourage ASF France to multiply our prisons tours . At the time, he just had obtained authorisation to get out for his release due to illness after we had reported his state of health to the Douala prison clinic.

The training sessions have also been really appreciated by the staff of the judicial administrations - most of them wished they could have lasted longer in order to deal with subjects in more depth.”

#### **An officer of the Criminal Investigation Department, beneficiary of the training of judicial actors in February 2014 in Douala:**

“The training sessions enabled the establishment of a true collaboration between the professionals involved in the penitentiary chain and the inmates, and convinced local authorities of their right to suggest relevant methods for better treatment of inmates in penitentiary environments.”



## ACHIEVEMENTS BETWEEN DECEMBER 2010 AND JUNE 2014

### - Prison visits and free consultations : Douala, Yaoundé, Bamenda et N'Gaoundéré

Around **4,450** inmates benefited from our awareness and information campaigns. Each prison visit lasted three days and mobilised 8 to 9 lawyers. The teams advised inmates and distributed guides and leaflets summarising their rights. After each visit, the lawyers, in consultation, selected the cases that would benefit from free legal aid and met the social and medical services of the prisons.



### - Legal aid and identification of « urgent» cases.

More than 570 cases, selected among the most vulnerable inmates, were taken on by the program's lawyers and thus benefited from free legal aid. These included inmates who had been abandoned by their families or were destitute, sick, minor, senior, pregnant or breastfeeding, as well as inmates whose cases had been abandoned and those who had been subject to lengthy periods of custody.

### - Prison rights training



Around 430 key penitentiary workers (prison staff, police officers, magistrates, lawyers, court clerks) received training in inmates' rights.

On the basis of international Human and Prison rights instruments, adapted to the Cameroonian context, we encouraged exchanges about dignity in detention, rules and guarantees of the respect for inmates' rights, frisking rules, discipline, violation of human dignity,

inmates care, incarceration conditions, and the international commitments of Cameroon regarding the respect for Human rights.

*This project was carried out in partnership with: Avocats Sans Frontières Cameroon and the Cameroonian Bar Association.*

*It was financed by: the Paris Bar Foundation, the Un Monde Par Tous Foundation, the Midi-Pyrénées Region and*



# MALI

## «Dignity : Respecting prisoners' rights»

Launched in September 2013, the project focuses on the cities of Bamako, Kati and Kayes. It results from assessments and analysis by ASF France and ASF Mali of the large number of violations of prisoners' rights.

The concrete aim of the project is to increase respect for and knowledge of the rights and legal guarantees that each inmate should benefit from, and thus to strengthen the Malian legal system and the rule of law.



### ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

- \* **10 days** of free legal consultations in prisons and legal aid.

Each visit lasts 2 days and is made by a group of 5 lawyers from ASF Mali and 2 lawyers or judges from ASF France. During each visit, the lawyers distribute a guide outlining the inmates' rights.

Priority is given to vulnerable people. In total, **362 consultations** took place in 2014.

- \* **Training of 77 legal actors**

Training sessions are organised during the two days following the prison legal consultation, for key workers in the prison system (lawyers, judges, police officers, prison staff and Court Services). They focus on respect for detention rules, in compliance with the international Human Rights commitments ratified by Mali.

- \* **Following up on cases before national courts**

77 cases have been dealt with by Malian lawyers.

- \* **Round table meetings with judges and judicial staff**

Through conversation and consultation, the problem areas in legal proceedings that can lead to the violation of prisoners' rights are addressed.



## TESTIMONIES

**Mr Lassana DIAKITE, ASF Mali Lawyer**, recently enrolled, declared:

"This training has been very important. The practical cases we work on allow us to better deal with the situations we have to face. We have already seen similar cases but without exactly knowing the relevant texts. Working with other legal professionals helps us to understand the different approaches taken by other professions."

**An inmate of the Kati remand centre:**

"A lot of inmates do not have a lawyer due to a lack of financial resources, They are isolated, with no familial support nor visits. The ASF prison campaign is important for inmates. The number of visits should be increased because there is nowhere we can complain and ask about the progress of our cases."

**Mr Seydou Doumbia, member of ASF Mali :**

"This project represents a real operational solution to the lack of access to justice in our country."



## 2015 OUTLOOK

- Around 400 inmates will benefit from free legal consultations
- 200 inmate cases will be handled
- 80 legal actors will be trained in detention rights



*This project is carried out in partnership with : ASF MALI  
It is financed by : the Bordeaux Bar Association, the Paris Bar Foundation and the European Union*



# NIGERIA

## SALI « SAving Llves »

The project aims to strengthen access to justice for people sentenced to death or under threat of a death penalty.

It also contributes to the legislative and institutional changes necessary to decrease the number of death sentences in Nigeria, especially through the mobilisation of the principle local and national judicial and political actors, as well as civil society.

The target groups are: lawyers, judges, prosecutors, prison staff, police officers, local NGOs and the media. The final beneficiaries are the prisoners sentenced to death or awaiting sentencing and likely to be subject to capital punishment.



Location of actions : Abuja, Benue, Edo, Kaduna, Katsina, Lagos et Plateau.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

- ♦ Training of Nigerian lawyers
- ♦ Free legal aid provided to more than 140 inmates
- ♦ Awareness, capacity building and the diffusion of practical tools to about 400 legal actors
- ♦ Information campaigns about alternatives to the death penalty
- ♦ Organisation of a conference in Abuja to present the achievements and the challenges faced; as well as a conference in Paris chaired by Robert Badinter about legal strategy and feedback from the experience of ASF France in Nigeria in the fight against death penalty

## SUCCESS OF THE REQUEST BROUGHT TO THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF ECOWAS (Economic Community Of West African States)

### Maimuna Abdulmumini' s case

This first case concerns the prohibition on sentencing minors to death. Maimuna Abdulmumini is a young woman who had been sentenced to death, then incarcerated with her infant, for the alleged murder of her husband when she was only 13 years old. In June 2014, the Court declared that the application of the death penalty against Maimuna, for a crime committed when she was a minor, represented a violation of the article 6.5 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of which Nigeria is party.

### ThankGod Ebhos' case

This second case concerns the right to appeal a sentence of capital punishment. On death row for approximately 20 years, Mr. ThankGod Ebhos had been sentenced for accusations he denied, by a special court established by the military regime. In the judgment issued in June 2014, the Court ordered Nigeria to remove Mr. ThankGod Ebhos from the list of people sentenced to death in order to protect him from the risk of being executed while an appeal to the Edo State Court of Appeal is still pending. The Court judged that any execution attempt before the conclusion of the appeal would represent a violation of article 6.4 of the ICCPR.

*Project partners: Access to Justice, National Human Rights Commission and Nigerian Bar Association,*

*With financial support from the French Development Agency, the Betto Seraglini for International Justice Endowment Fund, the European Union and the Un monde Par Tous Foundation*



## 16 MONTHS AFTER SEEING HIS FELLOW INMATES BEING HANGED, THANKGOD EBHOS IS FREE

Mr. ThankGod Ebhos remained on death row for 19 years after being sentenced in 1995 by a military court, accused of armed robbery. He has managed to avoid the application of the death penalty thanks to the awareness campaigns and judicial interventions led by Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France). ASF France managed to obtain, in favour of Mr. ThankGod Ebhos, a decision by the ECOWAS' Court of justice prohibiting the federal government from executing him on January 31, 2014. An order for his release from prison, signed by the governor of the Kaduna State, was delivered to the prison authorities on October 23, 2014.

### ThankGd Ebhos :

« I thank Avocats Sans Frontières France for the assistance they provided. If they had not fought for me, I would not be alive today. »

## THE CHALLENGE OF WORKING AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

In 2013, 4 people sentenced to death were executed by hanging in Nigeria, marking the end of a moratorium on executions observed for seven years.

Nigeria counts more than 1200 inmates « on death row ». Prison conditions are particularly worrying in such cases. Through two innovative decisions made on June 10, 2014, the ECOWAS' Court of justice called for the strict respect of the requirement for a fair trial and of the rights to defence in the context of legal proceedings leading to the capital punishment.



*Mr Cantier and Mr. Badinter during the conference on the fight against the death penalty. Paris, November 27, 2014.*

## 2015 OUTLOOK

ASF France will pursue its awareness-raising campaigns and strengthen its advocacy directed at legislators and members of « Prerogative of Mercy Committees. »

We will also follow up on the ECOWAS' Court's decisions in order to ensure that they are implemented by the Nigerian courts.



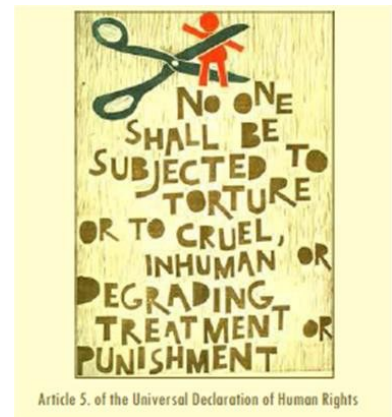
# NIGERIA

## ProCAT : Providing legal aid to victims of torture and promoting the principles of the United Nations Convention against Torture

The aim of this project is to help to decrease the number of acts of torture across the legal system by mobilising legal professionals and raising awareness. We will also defend the victims of torture and ill-treatment.

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

- Free legal aid to 57 victims of torture or ill-treatment at various stages of the legal proceedings whose cases have been brought to court (14 cases in the State of Plateau, 25 in the State of Kaduna and 18 in the State of Enugu)
- Training of legal professionals in the principles of the United Nations Convention against Torture (CAT)
- 9 Nigerian support lawyers trained by the lawyers of ASF France on how to represent victims of torture
- 42 Nigerian legal professionals informed and trained in the principles of the UNCT



*Project carried out in partnership with: the Access to Justice, National Human Rights Commission, and the Nigerian Bar Association.*

*With financial support from the Allen & Overy Foundation, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Canadian High Commission and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT).*



ALLEN & OVERY



## TESTIMONY

**Babangida Na'ado, beneficiary of the project, State of Kaduna :**

*« If ASF France had not helped me, I would still be in prison ».*

Babangida Na'ado was arrested in 2010 on criminal conspiracy and armed robbery charges. He was placed in custody then transferred to the Jaji military camp where he was cruelly beaten with sticks until he lost all pain sensation in order to force him to admit that he had committed a crime. Babandiga was then transferred to the State of Kaduna where he was savagely flogged with a cable wire during two days because he had refused to sign the statement that had been written for him. He was also deprived of food and water during three days. Babangida was released after ASF France filed an application on his behalf to assert his fundamental human rights. He had been held between 2010 and 2014 without any charge against him. Babangida attributed his release to ASF France.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION :

Even though Nigeria has ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture (CAT), there are several obstacles to its effective enforcement due to deficiencies in the legal system in respect of police investigations, legal aid services, procedural abuses and even the acceptance of forced confessions as evidence by the courts.

Police violence and arbitrary or wrongful detentions are only rarely contested by lawyers, due to a lack of legal aid, and by citizens, unaware of their rights and suspicious of the judicial authorities.

## 2015 OUTLOOK

*(With the support of the Australian cooperation and the UNVFVT)*

- \* Legal aid and representation for victims of torture
- \* Training of legal actors in the CAT principles
- \* Raising awareness among the Nigerian population about the fight against torture and ill-treatment (through talk shows on radio programs)

# TUNISIA

project completed in December 2014

## Institutional capacity building of the ISPA : *Institut Supérieur de la Profession d'Avocat* (Advanced Institute of the Legal Profession)

The purpose of the project completed in 2014 was to implement a program to reform the *Institut Supérieur de la Profession d'Avocat* (ISPA) in Tunis, with a view to strengthening the rule of law and to promoting Human rights.

Lawyers, and more generally Human rights defenders, faced harsh repression under the reign of Ben Ali. Since the 2011 Jasmine revolution, Tunisia has undergone a transition period and is attempting to reform its legal system. Training law students appears to be one of the major challenges.

The ISPA is currently responsible for training students who have passed their entrance examination, leading to the delivery of a professional certificate that allows the student to register at the bar. It also conducts continuing professional education for practicing lawyers by organising



### OUTLOOK

The ISPA is now in the process of becoming an independent institution. It works in coordination with the national bar and will be involved in the implementation of continuing training of lawyers across the country in a growing number of legal and non-legal fields (management, communication, languages, etc.). It will help them improve their professional practice and promote the internationalization of the profession.



## TESTIMONY :

**Sarra BEN SEDRINE, Lawyer :**

« I would like to commend this exchange initiative launched by the European Union and the *Institut Supérieur de la Profession d'Avocat*. The training course in France was for me an outstanding opportunity that allowed me to discover a new legal and judicial system. I have collected a lot of information that will be useful not only for my career but also for my personal relationships and my personal development.

My experience in the ISPA ended on a high note: on May 3, 2013 I became a trainee lawyer which allowed me to fulfil my dream: take an oath and wear the black robe. Now I live my dream every day. « LAWYER », that is what I am now. ».



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- *Structural reform of the ISPA's staff*
- *Recruitment of executives, general secretary, director of studies and head clerk.*
- *Defining the admission and syllabus requirements.*
  - > *Organisation of the entrance examination.*
  - > *Preparation of a new training program.*
  - > *Organisation of the academic calendar for both old and new training.*
- *Training for trainers*
- *Highlighting the ISPA's visibility and its inter-institutional relations.*

*Project carried out in partnership with: the Ecole Régionale des Avocats du Grand-Est (ERAGE), the Haute Ecole des Avocats Conseils (HEDAC) and SOGES*

*With financial support from the European Union*



# LAOS

## Project «Strengthening the role and skills of lawyers in the Laotian justice system».

This project's objective is to redefine the lawyers' initial course program in the National Judicial Training Institute and to train future lawyers.

The year 2014 has mainly been marked by the acceleration of the National Judicial Training Institute's process of creation and by the Laotian authorities to allow the official opening of the NJTI on January 5, 2015.



### ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

- ◆ Definition of the lawyers' initial course program.

The organisation of this program now falls to the National Judicial Training Institute (NJTI), which is responsible for the training of judges, prosecutors and lawyers. A round-table meeting was organised in Vientiane on Friday 21 March 2014, which brought together the different actors involved in the NJTI's creation in order to agree on the NJTI's general curriculum.

- ◆ Development of a pool of trainers and co-training of law students

Five trainers of the Lao Bar Association (LBA) have been appointed to teach theoretical and practical courses at the NJTI regarding the position and role of the lawyer. In 2014, ASF France carried out three training sessions to assist these trainers to develop their training materials and give them methodological support.

- ◆ Institutional support to the Lao Bar Association (LBA)

Cooperation with the Toulouse Bar Association.



## TESTIMONY

**Henri NAYRAL DE PUYBUSQUE, Lawyer**

“We have been supporting the Lao Bar Association with the training of future lawyers since 2010. In 2014 our activities were redirected because of the decision of the Laotian government to create a school that now trains future lawyers, prosecutors and judges together. In partnership with the French National School for the Judiciary, we elaborated the school's training programme and prepared the lawyers in charge of the school's classes, including assisting in developing the syllabus. The school welcomed its first Class in January 2015.”

## OUTLOOK

Plans for 2015 :

- ◆ Six co-training campaigns are planned in the first half of 2015 to guide the LBA's trainers in the launch of the National Judicial Training Institute (NJTI);
- ◆ One campaign for the « refreshing » of the trainers' training will be performed after the first term of training in order to strengthen the trainers' technical and educational skills and to train the new potential trainer recruits for the following year;
- ◆ Interaction between the Toulouse Bar Association and the Lao Bar Association;
- ◆ National symposiums :  
Two two-day symposiums to raise awareness of the role of the lawyer, bringing together lawyers, judges, prosecutors, police officers and officials of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Security.

*Partners of the project : the Lao Bar Association, Toulouse Bar Association and the Laotian Ministry of Justice;  
With financial support from the French Embassy in Laos.*



# Future project : CAMEROON

## LUDOSIG : Fighting against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

This project aims to help to improve living conditions for LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexed) people in Cameroon. The objectives are:

- To fight against every form of discrimination against LGBTI people including harassment, marginalization, attacks based on actual or alleged gender identity.
- To bring support and protection to LGBTI people and to their advocates while strengthening their role and legitimacy in Cameroon.



### OBJECTIVES FOR 2015

- Providing legal aid and defending LGBTI people under threat, as well as their advocates
- Creating a refuge for LGBTI people and the people who defend them
- Awareness campaigns
- Training in advocacy techniques
- Publishing a report on the situation of LGBTI people in Cameroon
- Technical training for legal and prison professionals in Human and LGBTI rights

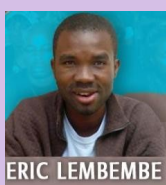


## BACKGROUND:

This project originated from our observation that the living conditions for LGBTI people, are worsening and they suffer harassment, discrimination, aggressions and other kinds of marginalization based on sexual orientation or actual or alleged gender identity. Cameroon is now one the African countries with the highest rate of arrests and proceedings against LGBTI people. Homosexual relationships are a crime and subject to a fine and from 6 months to 5 years of imprisonment. Arrests are often based simply on accusations. During the arrests, rights of defence are not respected and people suspected of having homosexual relationships can be arbitrarily arrested and tortured.

Because of a climate of hatred and terror, few lawyers are willing to defend LGBTI people.

At regional and international levels, the project is part of a dynamic of protection and promotion of the rights recognised by the treaties and conventions ratified by Cameroon, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which recognises the right to privacy and the right to freedom from discrimination. Thus, the United Nations Human Rights Committee, in the *Toonen v. Australia* case (1994), judged that the criminalisation of consenting relations between people of the same sex represents a violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly the right to privacy and the right to freedom from discrimination.



The assassination of Eric Lembembe, Executive Director of the Cameroonian foundation for AIDS, who was recognised as defender of the homosexual cause and whose tortured body was found on July 15, 2013, strengthens the will to act quickly and efficiently.

*Partners of the project : Alternatives Cameroun, Avocats Sans Frontières Suisse, the Réseau des Défenseurs des Droits Humains en Afrique Centrale (REDHAC)*

*With financial support from: World Justice Project.*

# AVOCATS SANS FRONTIÈRES NETWORK

Created in 1992, the ASF Movement has since gone from strength to strength due to the networking of its members.

Its principle goal is to protect the rights of the vulnerable, through the skills and commitment of its members who are mostly lawyers but also judges, in-house lawyers and interested members of the public.

These volunteers are part of the community of Human Rights defenders along with activists in other organisations, unionists, journalists and others who become spokespeople for the oppressed.

They are too often harassed, sued, incarcerated and sometimes murdered because of their actions. That is why their defence is a priority for the ASF Network.

With a presence in Africa, America, Asia and Europe, the 21 member organisations are well placed for this task, in close collaboration with other Human Rights organisations.



## MEMBERS OF THE ASF NETWORK

- ASF Benin
- ASF Brazil
- ASF Cameroon
- ASF Comoros
- ASF Congo
- ASF Ivory Coast
- ASF France
- ASF Guinea
- ASF Italy
- ASF Mali
- ASF Mauritania
- ASF Netherlands
- ASF Peru
- ASF DR of Congo
- ASF Central African Rep.
- ASF Senegal
- ASF Sweden
- ASF Switzerland
- ASF Togo
- ASF Tunisia

## DEVELOPING THE AVOCATS SANS FRONTIÈRES NETWORK

The ASF Network was set up in 2009. Today it counts 20 national organisations, with many others currently being formed.

The lawyers who are members of the Network have received technical training, including in the use of international legal tools to protect human rights, methodological training about the functioning of the association, as well as the training of trainers.

The lawyers from the different organisations are able to ensure an efficient defence, both in their countries and abroad, with, whenever necessary, the support of one or several organisations who are members of the Network.

The Network's goal is to ensure the empowerment of each of its members as well as solidarity between its different components.

Several projects and campaigns have been set up thanks to the relationships developed within the Network (for instance, the projects on the respect for dignity in detention in Cameroon and Mali, presented on pages 6 to 9).

The organisations that are members of the Network have also organised defence or access to justice projects in their own countries.

François Cantier, founder of ASF France



# THE EMERGENCY MISSION

## Case study: Ms. Drifa Ould Lahoucine, under threat for practicing her profession (Algeria)

Since she won her case against a chief clerk who was engaged in misdemeanours and who was sentenced in 2008, Ms. Drifa Ould Lahoucine has been the victim of threats and harassment.

Thus, in 2009, a few months after the release of the court clerk, who threatened that he would have his revenge, she was accused of having organised the kidnapping of child and was subject to disciplinary proceedings following which she was suspended and has not been able to practice as a profession of lawyer. After calling on the International Observatory for Lawyers and getting support from the Conseil National des Barreaux, Avocats Sans Frontières France, the International Association of Lawyers and the Paris Bar Association, she finally was acquitted by the criminal court of Annaba on November 28, 2011.

Nevertheless, in November 2014, Ms. Ould Lahoucine learnt to her surprise that a judgment of the criminal chamber of the Supreme Court dated October 16, 2014 had overruled the decision of November 28, 2011 to acquit and sent the case before another division of the criminal court of Annaba so that Ms. Ould Lahoucine would be retried. It appears that the general prosecutor of the Annaba Court had lodged an appeal against the criminal judgment without telling Ms. Ould Lahoucine and without her being told she could file a defence statement before the Supreme Court : the procedure therefore took place without her knowledge.

On December 28, 2014, Ms. Ould Lahoucine submitted an application to the Supreme Court for the revocation of the judgement of October 16, 2014. The date on which the Supreme Court will make its decision on this application for revocation is unknown and unpredictable.

### TESTIMONY

#### MS. DRIFA OULD LAHOUCINE

By this testimony, I would like to express my full gratitude to Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France) for the « invaluable » efforts it never stopped making during my difficult ordeal related to a case of human trafficking. ASF France, which supported me during a first trial which resulted in an acquittal in 2011, once again showed unfailing support to a colleague unfairly « mistreated » by the Algerian justice. Its solidarity was expressed by, the diffusion of alerts both to the Algerian authorities and the several foreign embassies in Algeria, not forgetting its offer of the right to asylum as long as « my life was in danger » and I was risking having serious trouble for having « dared » to denounce corruption where it was supposed to never to happen (in a Court).

Its multiple requests to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to potentially extend my stay in France only show the depth of its commitment to defend those who need it so that justice can prevail. Also, my thanks and my gratitude go to the originators of these so praiseworthy procedures for the victims of injustice, starting with the President of ASF France, François Cantier for his unfailing support, as well as the coordinator, Anne Lutun, and Ms. Nathalie Muller who did all they could to extend my stay.

Dear colleagues, please find in this testimony the expression of my deep thanks and gratitude for the great solidarity which reduces, somewhat, my apprehensions towards such a serious case to the extent that it upset the life of a lawyer with an almost 20-year long career. Respectfully.



# ASF FRANCE AND LA FRANCOPHONIE

The OIF: *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* (International Organisation of French-speaking Countries) has wished that the civil society and its organisations as partners of La Francophonie.

That is why it has certified general international non-governmental organisations (INGOS), including ASF France, which have a consultative status.

These organisations are divided into 4 Missions : Language; Education; Peace, Democracy, Human Rights; Development.

The Mission *Peace, Democracy and Human Rights*, which includes ASF France, consists and counts 24 International non-governmental organisations (INGOS). ASF France, in the person of François Cantier, has been elected President of the INGO of that mission.

In 2014, the *Sommet des Chefs d'Etat de la Francophonie* (La Francophonie's Heads of State Summit ) was held in Dakar (Senegal).

Prior to this, the INGO met in June for a conference during which they were able to communicate their analysis and their requirements to the Heads of the OIF member states.

**These organisations worked on the role of women and young people in the democratic processes and the advent of the rule of law.**

Mr. François Cantier chaired 2 round-table meetings, one dedicated to the involvement of women and young people in French-speaking democracies, the other dedicated to the role of French-speaking civil society in a democracy.

Mr. François Cantier participated in the release of a book entitled « *De Dakar à Dakar (1989 – 2014)* » (« From Dakar to Dakar (1989—2014) »), Bruylant edition, writing the chapter entitled « *La Francophonie au défi de sa société civile* » (« La Francophonie challenged by its civil society »).



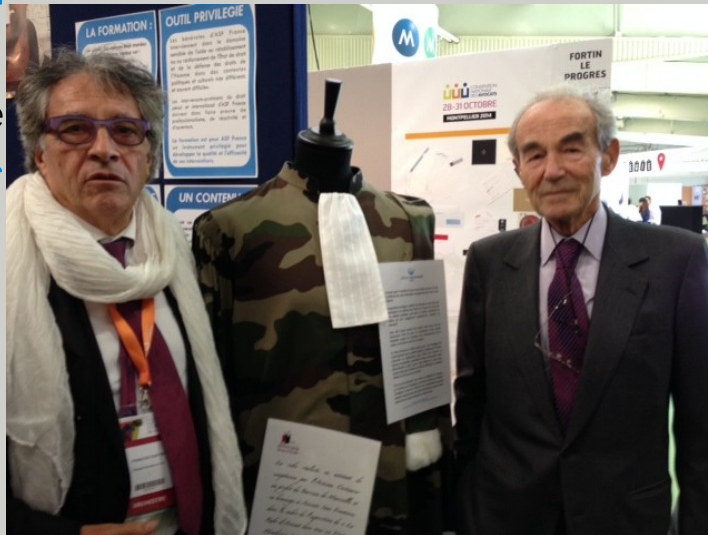




# EVENTS

From October 28 to October 31, 2014,

ASF France was present at the 6th *Conférence Nationale des Avocats* (Lawyers National Conference) in Montpellier



Mr. Cantier, founder of ASF France and Mr. Badinter

Le 25 novembre à Paris  
Salle Gaveau à 20h30  
45-47 rue de la Boétie  
75008 Paris

Le 2 décembre à Lyon  
Salle Edouard Herriot, à 20h  
1, Place Antonin Jutard  
69003 Lyon

Le 4 décembre à Bordeaux  
Théâtre Femina, à 20h  
10, rue de Grassi  
33000 Bordeaux

Le 18 décembre à Toulouse  
Auditorium St-Pierre des  
Cuisines, à 20h  
12, Place Saint-Pierre  
31200 Toulouse

#### Contacts :

- ASF : 05 34 31 17 83
- [Secretariat@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org](mailto:Secretariat@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org)
- [www.musikoklasika.com](http://www.musikoklasika.com)



## VESSELIN STANEV JOUE POUR



Récital de  
piano  
Frantz Liszt

Chers adhérents,

Dans le cadre de sa tournée européenne, Vesselin STANEV offre sa collaboration à Avocats Sans Frontières France.

Pour chaque place achetée,  
la moitié du prix du vente est reversée  
à ASF France

En assistant à ce concert, vous nous donnez les moyens de poursuivre notre lutte en faveur des plus vulnérables.

Venez nombreux partager un moment convivial et culturel, et nous aider à poursuivre notre action.

#### Programme : 1h30

- Rémiscences de Norma
- Rémiscences de Don Juan
- Après une lecture de Dante
- Méphisto-Valse n°1

#### Tarifs :

- Paris : 42 €
- Toulouse, Bordeaux : 30 €
- Lyon : 25 €

Toutes nos places sont en  
1ère catégorie

#### Modalités de paiement :

- Paiement par chèque
- A l'ordre de la société de production A&A
- Adressé au siège d'Avocats Sans Frontières France :

8 rue du Prieuré  
31000 TOULOUSE

## Gala Reception

May 14, 2014



Espace Vanel, José Cabanis multimedia library, in Toulouse

# COMMON ACTION WITH THE CDAD

In France, the CDAD: *Conseils Départementaux de l'Accès au Droit* (Access to Justice Departmental Councils) provide free consultations to the most destitute, thus giving them access to a lawyer. From this was born an idea of mutualising efforts so that each free consultation in France enables ASF France to multiply its action for the most destitute elsewhere in the world. In this way, for a given period, lawyers providing free legal consultations are requested to donate to ASF France the remuneration they usually receive from the CDAD.

This one-off action is open to all volunteer lawyers, registered or not, on the list of lawyers who usually participated to do the framework of the CDAD. The event usually ends with a ceremony during which the sums of money collected are remitted and which allows us to gather and thank all the stakeholders and invite the local media to highlight the event.

In 2014, lawyers of the Toulouse Bar Association put their expertise at the service of the weakest in France and around the World : from February 10 to February 15, a week of legal consultations was held, organised by the Toulouse Bar Association with the cooperation of the CDAD of Haute-Garonne.

23 lawyers have then provided 70 hours of free legal consultations. These lawyers agreed to donate their wages to ASF France : 4725€ was donated during a closing ceremony which took place on February 14, 2014 at the Illustres room of the Toulouse town hall.

*Considering the success of this operation, a new event has already been planned for 2015.*



*Mr. François Cantier, Founder of Avocats Sans Frontières France, receiving the contribution of the lawyers of Toulouse from Mrs. Anne Fauré, designated President of the Toulouse Bar Association*

# PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING TRAINING

Besides its status as an international solidarity organisation, ASF France is recognised as a training organisation by the *Direction Régionale des entreprises, de la concurrence, de la consommation, du travail et de l'emploi* (Regional Directorate of companies, competition, consumers, work and employment).

**ASF France is convinced that training is crucial to develop practitioners' abilities.**

The organisation leads 2 types of training action :

- For local legal practitioners : these campaigns are an integral part of the programs taking place in each country and promote the empowerment of local players.
- Practitioners taking part in ASF France's campaigns : all of ASF France's participants are trained for their role, including technical and substantive courses on various legal themes.

ASF France's training is accredited for Individual Right to Training (*Droit Individuel à la Formation* (DIF)), and is accredited by the *Conseil National des Barreaux* (National Bar Association) and can be covered by the FIFPL : *Fonds Interprofessionnel de Formation des Professionnels Libéraux* (Interprofessional Funds of Private Professionals' Training) for lawyers

## 2014 TRAINING SESSIONS

**'Training for trainers'** (fundamentals) - 19-22 March in Toulouse  
By Marie-José CANTIER-HERRMANN

**'Defence of vulnerable people'** - 27-28 March in Paris  
By Françoise FRAIGNEAU

**'International criminal defence'** - 9-11 April in Paris  
By Natacha FAUVEAU IVANOVIC and Philippe MORICEAU

**'Emergency defence'** - 19-20 June in Toulouse  
By Nathalie MULLER and Isabelle DURAND

**'Developing defence strategies: International tools, a resource for a lawyer'**  
20-22 November in Paris  
By Natacha FAUVEAU IVANOVIC

# 2015 TRAINING SESSIONS SCHEDULE

**'International criminal defence'**

13-14 March 2015 in Paris

**'Training for trainers - fundamentals'**

18-21 March 2015 in Toulouse

**'Defence of vulnerable people'**

3-4 April 2015 in Paris

**'Training for trainers - reinforcement'**

15-17 April 2015 in Toulouse

**'Emergency defence'**

18-20 June 2015 in Paris

**'Regional systems of protection of Human Rights'**

8-10 October 2015 in Paris

**'International legal tools'**

19-21 November 2015 in Paris

## Informations and registrations

[formations@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org](mailto:formations@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org) / +33 (0)5 34 31 17 83

**Opening hours** : 9am-12pm / 2pm-6pm (Monday to Friday)

*Audience affected :*

*Lawyers, magistrates, jurists campaigning for the defence of Human Rights and wishing to get involved in our actions .*



# PARTNERSHIP AND FINANCES

## BAR ASSOCIATIONS :

Agen, Ain, Aix en Provence, Albertville, Hautes-Alpes, Amiens, Angers, Avignon, Bastia, Bayonne, Belfort, Bergerac, Béthune, Blois, Bordeaux, Bourges, Brest, Caen, Carpentras, Châlons-en-Champagne, Chambéry, Charente, Chartres, Châteauroux, Clermont-Ferrand, Compiègne, Conférence Nationale des Bâtonniers, Corrèze (Brive-la-Gaillarde), Coutances, Cusset-Vichy, Dieppe, Dijon, Evreux, Fontainebleau, Gers, La Roche-sur-Yon, Laval, Le Havre, Lille, Lot, Lyon, Marseille, Melun, Mont de Marsan, Montluçon, Mulhouse, Nancy, Nantes, Nice, Pau, Papeete, Poitiers, Pyrénées Orientales, Quimper, Reims, Rennes, Rouen, Saint-Brieuc, Saint-Etienne, Hauts-de-Seine, Seine-Saint-Denis, Strasbourg, Tarn et Garonne, Thonon-les-Bains, Toulon, Toulouse, Tours, Val d'Oise, Valenciennes, Vannes, Versailles.

## INSTITUTIONAL ORGANISATIONS :

Agence Française de Développement, Association des Elèves Avocats Rhône Alpes, Cabinet du Premier Ministre, Canadian High Commission, ERAGE, Fondation du Barreau de Paris, Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme (Fonds des Nations Unies pour les Victimes de la Torture), HEDAC, Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et du Développement international, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Union européenne.

## REGIONAL AUTHORITIES :

Conseil Régional Midi-Pyrénées, Mairie de Toulouse



## COMPANIES & PRIVATE SPONSORS :

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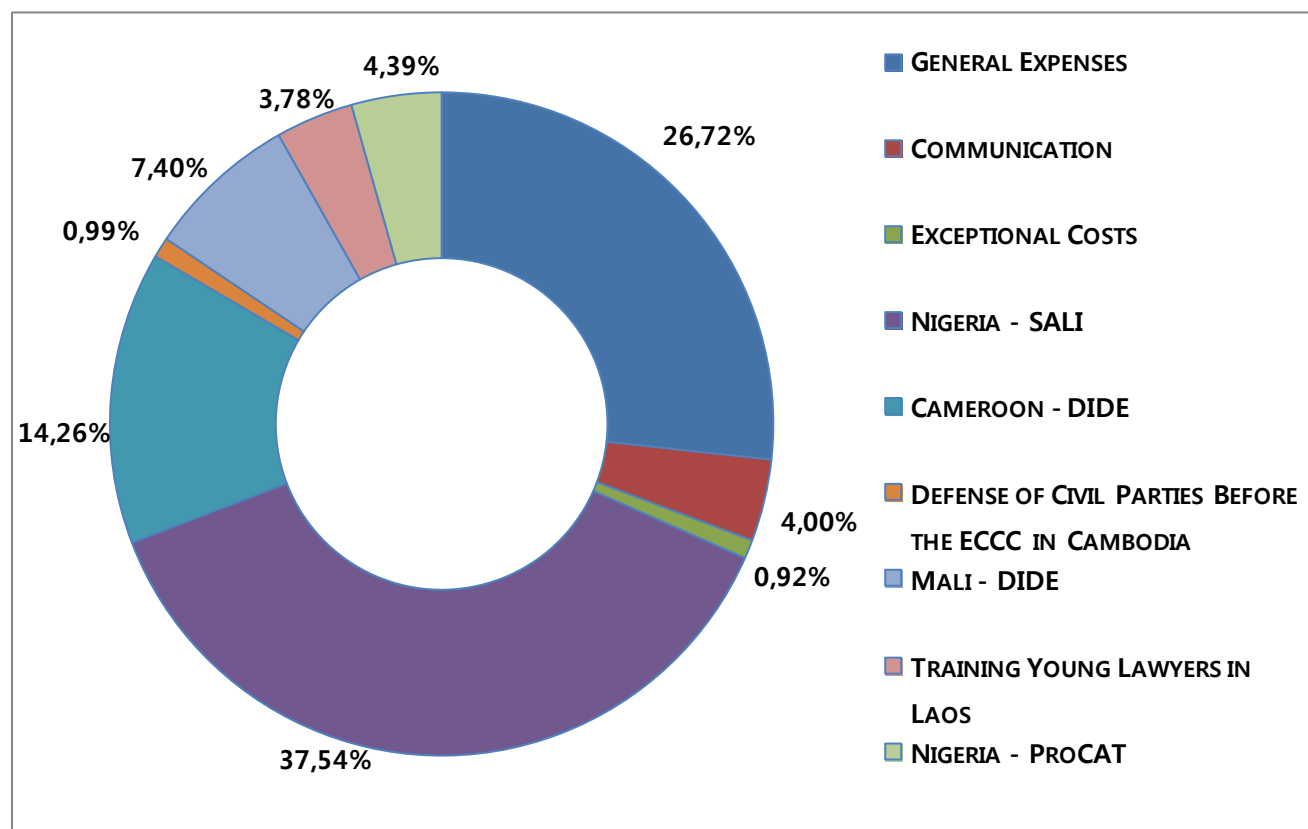
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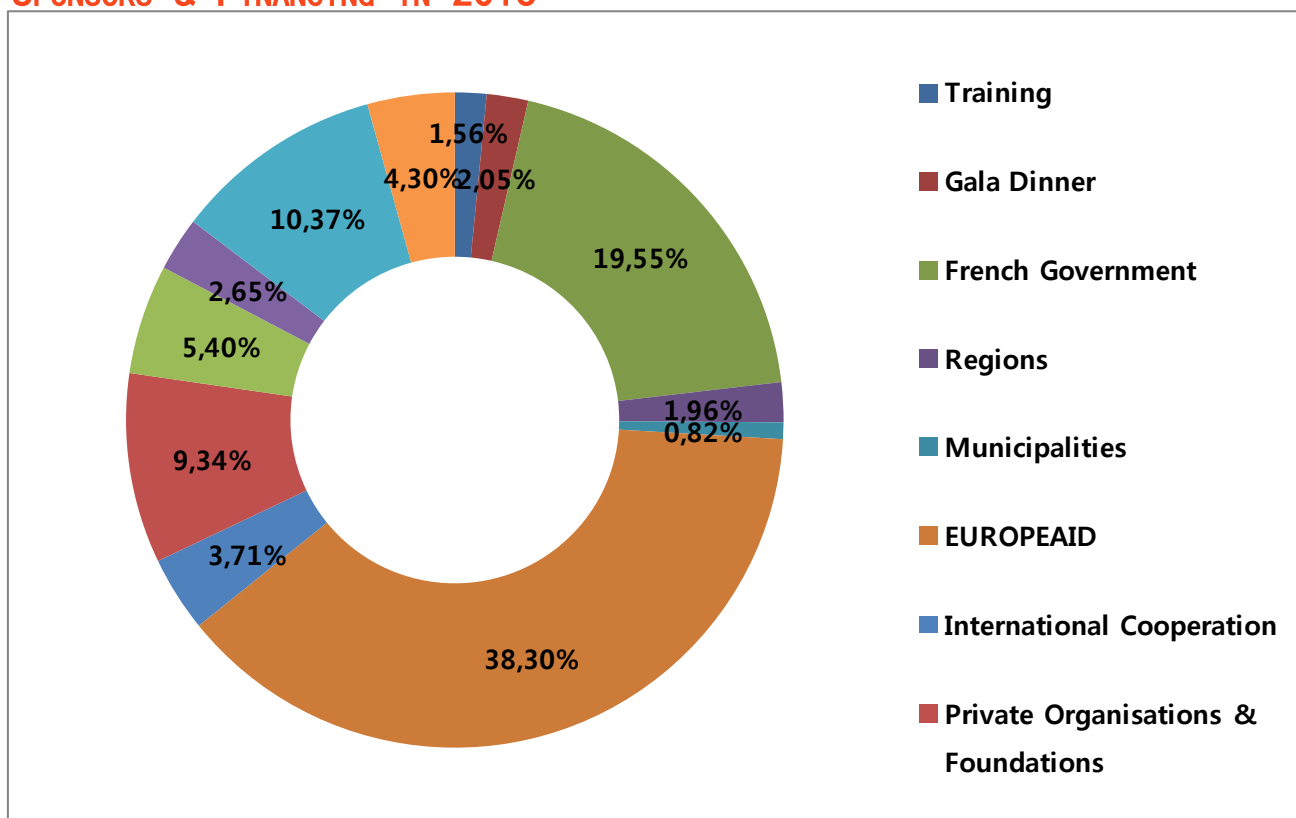
## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Budget change between 2012 and 2013 : -35.11%

### DISTRIBUTION OF CHARGES IN 2013



### SPONSORS & FINANCING IN 2013



# MEN AND WOMEN OF ASF FRANCE

## THE 2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD



### HONORARY PRESIDENT

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### SECRETARY

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## HEADQUARTERS TEAM

Nils ROCKLIN then Anne LUTUN – Management AND Coordinator of the Avocats Sans Frontières Network.

Sophia LAMSIYAH then Elodie SOULARD then Audrey ROELANDT - Projects Coordinators.

Alexandre CROIZIERS de LACVIVIER - Financial Administrator.

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Further to the General Assembly of December 13, 2014, and the Board of Directors on the same day, François Cantier has been elected President of Avocats Sans Frontières France.



## FIELD ACTORS:

**CAMEROON :** Patricia NDJANDJO—Project Coordinator, Louise NDOUMBE - Administrative and Accounting Assistant.

**LAOS :** Vincet PROSPER, Project Coordinator, Somchine PHANNARATH - Administrative and Accounting Assistant, Pivath VORACHAK - Support Lawyer.

**MALI :** Youssouf DAO - Project Coordinator.

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## EVENT VOLUNTEER :

Jean-Christophe Lafaye

## AUTHOR OF THE ANNUAL REPORT :

Valentine Pons Gueddiche

## TRANSLATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT :

Aurélié Bouzat & Natasha Peter

## REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT :

Natasha Peter

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# AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES France

Avocats Sans Frontières France

8, Rue du Prieuré

31000 Toulouse – France

Tél: +33 (0)5 34 31 17 83

Fax: +33 (0)5 34 31 17 84

[info@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org](mailto:info@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org)

[www.avocatssansfrontieres-france.org](http://www.avocatssansfrontieres-france.org)

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