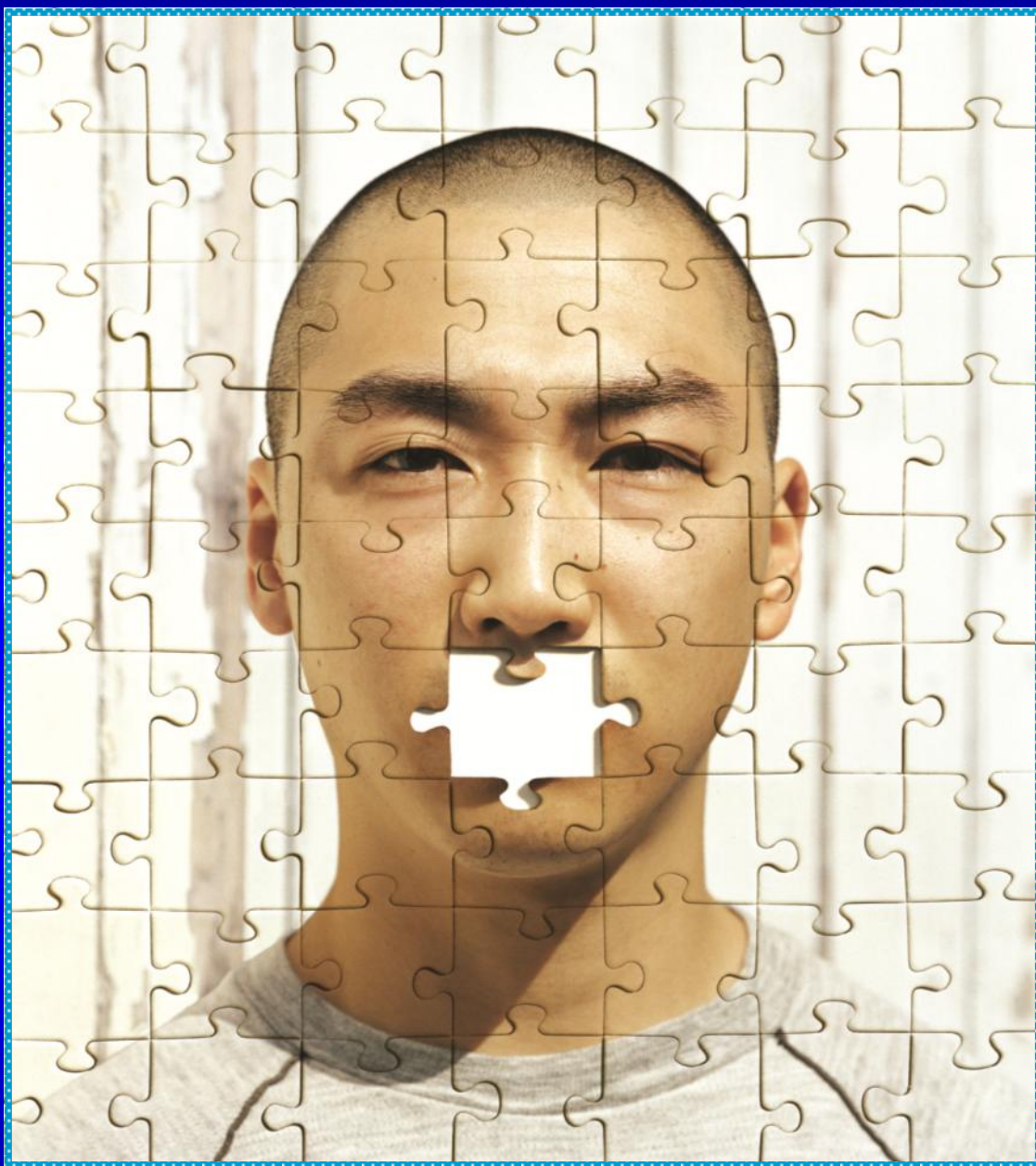




AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES
France



Action plan

2011

AVOCATS SANS FRONTIÈRES FRANCE – 2011 ACTION PLAN

2011 began with the launch of two new projects:

- Campaigning against the death penalty in Nigeria, via the wonderfully named "Saving Lives" programme
- Promoting access to law and justice in Cameroon, with our friends and partners from Avocats Sans Frontières Cameroon.

At the same time, thanks to the constancy of our main money lenders the projects undertaken in Cambodia, Nigeria, Laos and French-speaking Africa will continue, as will our internal training programmes, which are increasingly necessary to give our volunteers all the skills they need to fulfil their assignments.

The International Observatory for Lawyers has now assumed its full powers and is increasingly responsive.

The Avocats Sans Frontières Network already has twelve members. It will be joined by new organisations in 2011 as joint initiatives and projects are implemented.

Thanks to the commitment of its volunteers, Avocats Sans Frontières France, an international solidarity organisation, is contributing to the construction of a state of law.

It continues to receive much support from citizens, companies, states and international organisations that share its wish to build societies in which the protection of fundamental rights is a top priority.

François Cantier, Chairman of Avocats Sans Frontières France



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES
France

Concrete initiatives for justice without borders



IN ASIA:

CAMBODIA
LAOS

IN AFRICA:

NIGERIA
FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA
CAMEROON
GUINEA

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY FOR LAWYERS

DEVELOPMENT OF THE AVOCATS SANS FRONTIÈRES NETWORK

TRAINING TO UNDERPIN THE INITIATIVES

IN ASIA ...

CAMBODIA

CONTRIBUTE TO RESTORING A STATE OF LAW AND PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA



TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR STUDENT LAWYERS AND MAGISTRATES

Every year, between forty and sixty student lawyers receive training on the "Role of the lawyer" and the "International legal instruments protecting human rights".

Every year, 55 student magistrates are trained in the "Practice of criminal proceedings".

Between six and eight co-trainers are prepared to implement training programmes on the theme of human rights independently.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAMME: LEGAL AID FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



22 Cambodian lawyers based across the country are providing free legal assistance to the most vulnerable. Between 750 and 1,200 cases are handled every year.



PROGRAMME TO DEFEND CIVIL PARTIES IN THE ECCC*

The victims' cases received by ASF France are compiled and presented as "civil parties". The civil parties are defended effectively in the ECCC by a team of Cambodian and French lawyers from ASF France.

The victims forming the civil parties obtain fair justice and redress.

Project undertaken in partnership with:



The Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia



The Royal School of Magistracy in Cambodia

An initiative to **increase the expertise of Cambodian lawyers** through the introduction of training programmes for graduates of the *Professional Training Centre for Cambodian Lawyers*, which began in 2005, will continue until 2012. In 2009, it was extended to include student magistrates with training programmes for graduates of the *Royal School of Magistracy*.

To give **Cambodians greater access to justice**, from 2006 to 2009 ASF France and the Cambodian Bar Association ran a **legal aid programme** that enabled lawyers to travel to the twenty regions of the country at a time when they were concentrated in the capital Phnom Penh.

The programme was relaunched for a 24-month period in Cambodia's provinces in January 2010. The presence of 22 lawyers is giving the Cambodian population the possibility to be defended in court. In order to increase their expertise and ensure a high standard of legal assistance, **the lawyers will participate in three training sessions in 2011.**

ASF France has worked with the Cambodian Bar Association to form a team to **defend the "civil parties"** in the ECCC*.

The defence team was formed due to the low financial and material resources allocated to victim defence. The team, which comprises Cambodian and French lawyers, **defended 28 civil parties for no fee at the first trial, that of Duch**, former director of the S21 detention and torture centre. **The ASF France team is also defending some 1,200 civil parties** at the second trial involving **four former senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime**, Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary and Ieng Thirith.

A verdict in the second trial is expected in 2011.

SUPPORT

French Development Agency (AFD), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, French Embassy in Cambodia, Office of the Prime Minister, Nantes Bar Association and the Midi-Pyrénées region



* Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

IN ASIA...

LAOS

CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



The signing of the partnership agreement between ASF France and the Laotian Bar Association in Vientiane on 8 April 2010



Every year, **four to six Laotian co-trainers** receive training that will enable them to design and implement training modules in turn.

Every year, **between twenty and thirty Laotian student lawyers** are trained in international legal instruments protecting human rights and the principle of fair trials.

The Laotian Bar Association is the national institution responsible for the initial and continuing training of lawyers in Laos. Being eager to increase its expertise, it expressed real interest in additional training programmes, particularly on the use of national and international legal instruments protecting human rights and the right to a fair trial.

ASF France and the Laotian Bar Association have therefore planned a partnership covering areas as diverse as:

- **The initial and continuing training of lawyers**
- **Cooperation with other national legal bodies**
- **Sharing experiences with legal practitioners overseas**
- **Free access to justice for vulnerable populations**

The project to "Increase the expertise of lawyers in Lao PDR" was launched in 2010: 25 graduate lawyers undertook two training sessions on "*The role of the lawyer*" and "*International legal instruments protecting human rights*".

The three-year project will continue in 2011 and 2012 with training for two further years of graduate lawyers. The training will also be accessible to practicing lawyers.

2011 will also enable ASF France and the Laotian Bar Association to lay the foundations of their partnership in the other identified areas.

Project co-financed by the European Commission and French Development Agency



In partnership with the Laotian Bar Association and Laotian Ministry of Justice

IN AFRICA ...

NIGERIA



For nearly ten years, ASF France has been working in Nigeria after providing support to Hauwa Ibrahim in the defence of Amina Lawal, a young woman sentenced to death by stoning by a sharia court for having a child out of wedlock.

Context – many challenges :

- Despite the signing of the United Nations Convention against Torture in 2001, torture is widely practiced during police custody in order to obtain confessions.
- Almost inexistence of legal assistance: it is very difficult for the vulnerable to access law and justice.
- Between 550 and 700 people are thought to be awaiting execution on death row.

FIGHT AGAINST TORTURE

PROMOTION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE (ProCAT):

MARCH 2009–FEBRUARY 2012

Activities in 2011:

Legal assistance for victims of torture: ongoing review of identified cases and identification of new cases; launch of legal proceedings against perpetrators of torture in order to obtain sentences and fight impunity; obtaining significant jurisprudence against acts of torture.

Training of legal practitioners: there are plans to train a further 100 legal practitioners in the project's target states, as well as to continue holding roundtables bringing together the main legal practitioners in each state in order to exchange good practices.



Awareness of the population: posters and radio commercials continue to be distributed and awareness-raising workshops will be held in each target state with local leaders.

Project co-financed by the European Commission
Undertaken in partnership with:



Legal Aid Council
Of Nigeria



Nigerian Bar
Association

Aim:

To contribute to reducing acts of torture and improper treatment during legal proceedings by mobilising Nigerian legal practitioners and raising awareness amongst the population

Results to date:

Free legal aid: 100 cases of tortured prisoners reviewed since the start of the project

100 legal practitioners trained in three states (Kaduna, Kano and Lagos)

Organisation of two roundtables with legal practitioners

Broadcasting of radio commercials on the ban on torture and distribution of posters raising awareness of torture



Participants in a training session for legal practitioners in Kaduna, October 2010

IN AFRICA...

NIGERIA



Nigeria team:

In France: the Project Manager and team of pro bono lawyers; the African joint committee of ASF France.

In Nigeria: a project leader, public relations officer and logistician.

ProCAT: a legal head, legal assistant and team of eight liaison lawyers in the states.

SALI: a project coordinator, a head lawyer and a team of eight liaison lawyers in the states.



ASF France project leaders and the Abuja office team accompanied by liaison lawyers

FIGHT AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

INCREASING THE ROLE OF LAWYERS IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY
(SAVING LIVES: SALI):
JANUARY 2011–DECEMBER 2013

Aim:

To reduce the number of people facing the death penalty, sentenced to death at trial or definitively condemned to the death penalty, through the involvement of civil society, political figures and legal practitioners, particularly lawyers.

Activities:

Organise awareness-raising activities and workshops on the theme of the death penalty, fair trials and detention conditions, aimed at civil society organisations, political figures, legal practitioners, police officers and prison guards.

Organise training activities in order to increase the expertise of eight liaison lawyers on the theme of the death penalty and thereby enable them to provide legal assistance to prisoners who have been sentenced to death.

Provide free legal aid to prisoners facing the death penalty.

Organise publicity campaigns and lobbying on the death penalty.

Project co-financed by the European Commission

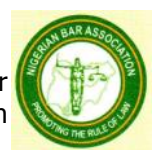


Undertaken in partnership with:



Legal Aid Council
Of Nigeria

Nigerian Bar
Association



IN AFRICA...

FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA

Results to date:

16 trainers have been trained in West Africa. They have in turn trained 40 legal practitioners during mentored training sessions.

22 trainers are receiving training in Central Africa.



Training in West Africa: defending the vulnerable: the case of women and children, October 2010

INTERREGIONAL TRAINING OF HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINERS

In response to the training requirements expressed by legal professionals in French-speaking Africa, ASF France has worked with local partner organisations to develop an interregional training project for human rights trainers in West and Central African regions.

West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

Central Africa: Burundi, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Chad.

Aim of the project:

To create a network of human rights trainers and defenders in French-speaking Africa

Via a complete four-phase programme:

Phase 1: Training trainers in teaching methods.

Phase 2: Training trainers in legal technique: "Use of international legal instruments protecting human rights" and "Defence before international criminal jurisdictions, particularly the International Criminal Court".

Phase 3: Refresher course on teaching methods.

Phase 4: Mentored training and conclusion.

Project co-financed by :



Project undertaken in partnership with Avocats Sans Frontières Mali and Cameroon

IN AFRICA...

CAMEROON

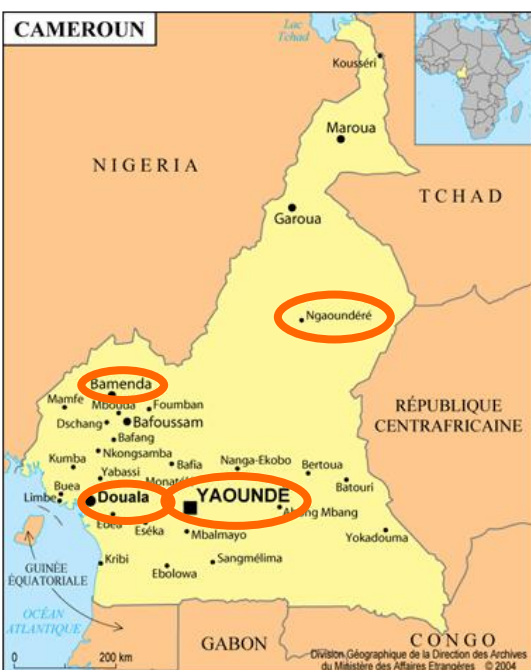
PROJECT UPCOMING IN 2011

Activities:

Provide detainees with legal assistance in regular visits to detention centres.

Organise training sessions involving the various figures in the prison environment: prison guards, police officers, magistrates, lawyers and court registrars.

Organise information and awareness-raising initiatives amongst detainees on their rights and guarantees.



DIGNITY IN DETENTION

RESPECTING PRISONERS' RIGHTS

Context :

Within a legal system that is already facing difficulties due to a lack of financial resources, human resources and a culture of respect for the law, in addition to widespread corruption, Cameroon's prison environment is in an alarming condition.

According to figures provided by Cameroon to the United Nation's Committee against Torture in March 2010, of a total of 23,196 prisoners, 14,265 are awaiting sentencing and 8,931 have been convicted.

In addition to prisons, the problem of respect for the dignity and rights of detainees revealed on a daily basis by the worrying situation in police stations, where suspects criticise the treatment that they have received.

There is therefore an urgent need to act in all detention centres to inform detainees of their rights and raise awareness amongst professionals of respecting detainees' basic rights.

Project that will begin in 2011: "Dignity in detention: Promoting respect of basic human rights for detainees in Cameroon's prisons – DIDE".

Place : cities of Douala, Yaoundé, Bamenda and Ngaoundéré

Financed by the European Commission



Partners: ASF Cameroon and the Bar Association of Cameroon

IN AFRICA...

GUINEA CONAKRY

PROJECT UPCOMING IN 2011

Anticipated results:

A group of fifteen resource people is formed. They will be able to lead training sessions on the theme of human rights for various target groups.

Approximately 100 legal practitioners are trained and informed on human rights and adapt their professional practices to greater respect thereof.

500 information booklets are published and distributed.

Approximately 120 people attend the final conference and resolutions are adopted in order to steer practitioners towards greater respect of human rights.

Length of the project: one year

Estimated start of the project: mid-2011

Partner: ASF Guinea



INCREASING THE EXPERTISE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

Context and aim:

Following a 24-year presidency by Lansana Conté, and huge social and political instability in recent years, Guinea Conakry has entered into a crucial transition phase.

In such a context, it is vital to increase the expertise of human rights defenders and legal practitioners in order to contribute to strengthening the state of law.

Training for legal professionals in Guinea is often poor, particularly in criminal proceedings. This leads to human rights violations at every stage of the legal process. Therefore the project is aiming to increase their expertise through training programmes.

Places: cities of Conakry and Kankan

Activities:

Form a group of resource people experienced in the field of human rights. These people will be trained in teaching and legal methods. Some fifteen human rights defenders who are members of civil society, particularly ASF Guinea, will form the group.

Organise two training sessions for legal practitioners in both of the country's Courts of Appeal, i.e. in Conakry and Kankan. The training sessions will prompt dialogue between the various legal practitioners. They will address criminal law and regional and international instruments for the defence of human rights. A collection of texts will be distributed to legal practitioners.

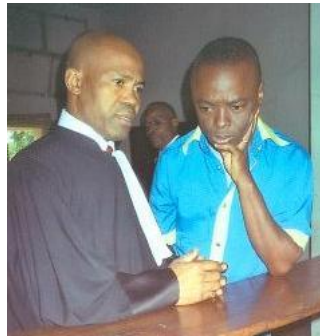
Organise a final conference in order to present the results of the project and encourage political and legal institutions to work to promote greater respect of human rights.

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY FOR LAWYERS

IOA



INTERNATIONAL
OBSERVATORY
FOR LAWYERS



Maître Claude Joël Paka, mandated by the Observatory, serving as lawyer for Maître Firmin Yangambi, who was sentenced to death by Kinshasa Gombe High Military Court on 3 March 2010

RESULTS

Since it was founded:

The cases of twenty threatened lawyers across the world have been monitored and widely publicised.

Eight international support missions for lawyers threatened in the exercise of their duties have been undertaken in Vietnam, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Algeria and Georgia.

The Observatory's annual report on the situation of lawyers across the world will be published shortly.

Every day across the world, lawyers are threatened, imprisoned, tortured, executed or are even the victims of forced disappearances because of their professional activities.

In view of such a situation, the Observatory was founded by Avocats sans frontières France in late 2008 in partnership with the French, Spanish and Italian National Bar Councils and the Ordre des Avocats de Paris, and has gradually consolidated its position on the international stage as a protective shield for lawyers.

Aims:

The Observatory aims to identify lawyers who are threatened, sued, imprisoned or executed because of their professional activities and take appropriate steps to end the situation or bring it to an appropriate outcome.

www.observatoire-avocats.org



*Meeting of a delegation from the Observatory with Chinese lawyers deprived of their license in June 2009
Beijing, March 2010*

Project: Lawyers working for lawyers.
The project is financed by the European Commission.



The International Observatory for Lawyers was founded by Avocats sans frontières France in partnership with the Conseil National des Barreaux, the Barreau de Paris, the Consejo Nacional de la Abogacía Española (ES) and the Consiglio Nazionale Forense (IT).
It is open to new members.



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIÈRES NETWORK

ASF NETWORK

Avocats Sans Frontières was founded in the framework of « La Conférence Internationale des Barreaux » (CIB) and at the instigation of Chairmen of the Bar Mario Stasi and Titinga Pacéré, following a resolution deciding on its creation at a conference held in Yaoundé (Cameroon) in December 1991. The first association was created in Belgium in 1992.

The first large-scale operation undertaken by Avocats Sans Frontières was "Justice for all in Rwanda". It consisted of organising the defence by foreign lawyers of prisoners and victims of genocide in Rwandan jurisdictions. The experience, which was founding for the movement, was also a first in the history of justice and universally hailed as a success.

From 1998, Avocats Sans Frontières grew with the creation of national associations in Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Mali, Mauritania, Sweden and Switzerland.

Twelve national associations signed the Joint Charter of Ethics in Yaoundé on 15 November 2010: **Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, France, Guinea Conakry, Italy, Mali, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Sweden and Switzerland.**

Many other senior or budding ASF are about to join the network.

FOR 2011, FOUR AVENUES FOR ACTION ARE BEING ENVISAGED:

First avenue: urgent defence of lawyers, human rights defenders and citizens. Several cases are currently being studied, particularly representing the civil parties in the trial of Floribert Chebeya, a human rights defender assassinated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, support for lawyers imprisoned in Douala and Yaoundé, Cameroon, Iranian lawyers and Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, defending journalists in various countries, etc.

Second avenue: strengthening the network by sharing project design and management tools, training members and supporting the initial projects of young ASF.

Third avenue: campaigning to promote human rights and justice in international cooperation with participation in the main international events in the area: Dakar World Social Forum, Lawyers International Conferences ...

Fourth avenue: the development of network communication (website, interactive area, etc.).



ASF representatives and network members at the third plenary meeting in Cameroon, November 2010

The Avocats Sans Frontières Network project is supported by the Clifford Chance Foundation.

C L I F F O R D
C H A N C E

TO UNDERPIN THE INITIATIVES

Avocats sans frontières France is an international solidarity organisation. **The association is also recognised as a training provider.**

It trains and prepares its members for involvement in its overseas projects.

Training is an essential tool to increase the expertise and autonomy of local figures in law and justice.

The training sessions are also open to all professionals in the legal and judicial sphere who would like to know more about the realities of law and justice at international level.

The training sessions are provided by experienced professionals specialising in educational engineering and practitioners of law within international authorities and jurisdictions.

They use teaching methods adapted to adult learning, requiring active participants (simulations, role-plays, practical cases, etc.).

Avocats sans frontières France training sessions are accredited by the Conseil National des Barreaux (in France). They can be financed by the FIFPL and count towards continuing vocational training for lawyers practicing in France.

For 2011, four training programmes are proposed:

- Training trainers
- Lawyers' tools at international level
- Regional human rights protection systems: African and European
- International criminal defence.

See the schedule of training sessions overleaf (p. 14)

Participants in a training session for trainers, which was held in Sommières in May 2010



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIÈRES
France

Training sessions 2011

Avocats Sans Frontières France
8 rue du Prieuré 31000 Toulouse
FRANCE

Activity declaration no.
73 31 05506 31

Training trainers

Two levels:

Level 1: foundation

- 1, 2, 3 and 4 June 2011 / Sommières
- 9, 10, 11 and 12 November 2011 / Paris

Level 2: refresher

- 5, 6 and 7 May 2011 / Paris
- 1, 2 and 3 December 2011 / Toulouse

Lawyers' tools at international level

Two three-day sessions:

7, 8 and 9 April 2011 / Paris

Lawyers' tools at international level + fair trials

29/30 Sept and 1 Oct 2011 / Toulouse

Lawyers' tools at international level + universal jurisdiction

Please note that all the trainings are given out in french language.

Regional human rights protection systems: African and European

24, 25 and 26 November 2011 / Paris

International criminal defence

Two four-day sessions:

27, 28, 29 and 30 April 2011 / Paris

International criminal defence and Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)

16, 17, 18 and 19 November 2011 / Paris

International criminal defence + International Criminal Court

Training Secretary:

Emeline BARDON

formations@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org

Tél : +33(0)5.34.31.17.83
Fax : +33(0)5.34.31.17.84

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AVOCATS SANS FRONTIÈRES FRANCE

THANKS ALL ITS SUPPORTERS

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Avocats Sans Frontières France

8 rue du prieuré

31 000 Toulouse — FRANCE

+33 (0)5 34 31 17 83

info@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org

www.avocatssansfrontieres-france.org





AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES France

Where the defence is not allowed to get a word

Avocats Sans Frontières France
8 rue du prieuré
31 000 Toulouse
+33 (0)5 34 31 17 83
info@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org
www.avocatssansfrontieres-france.org