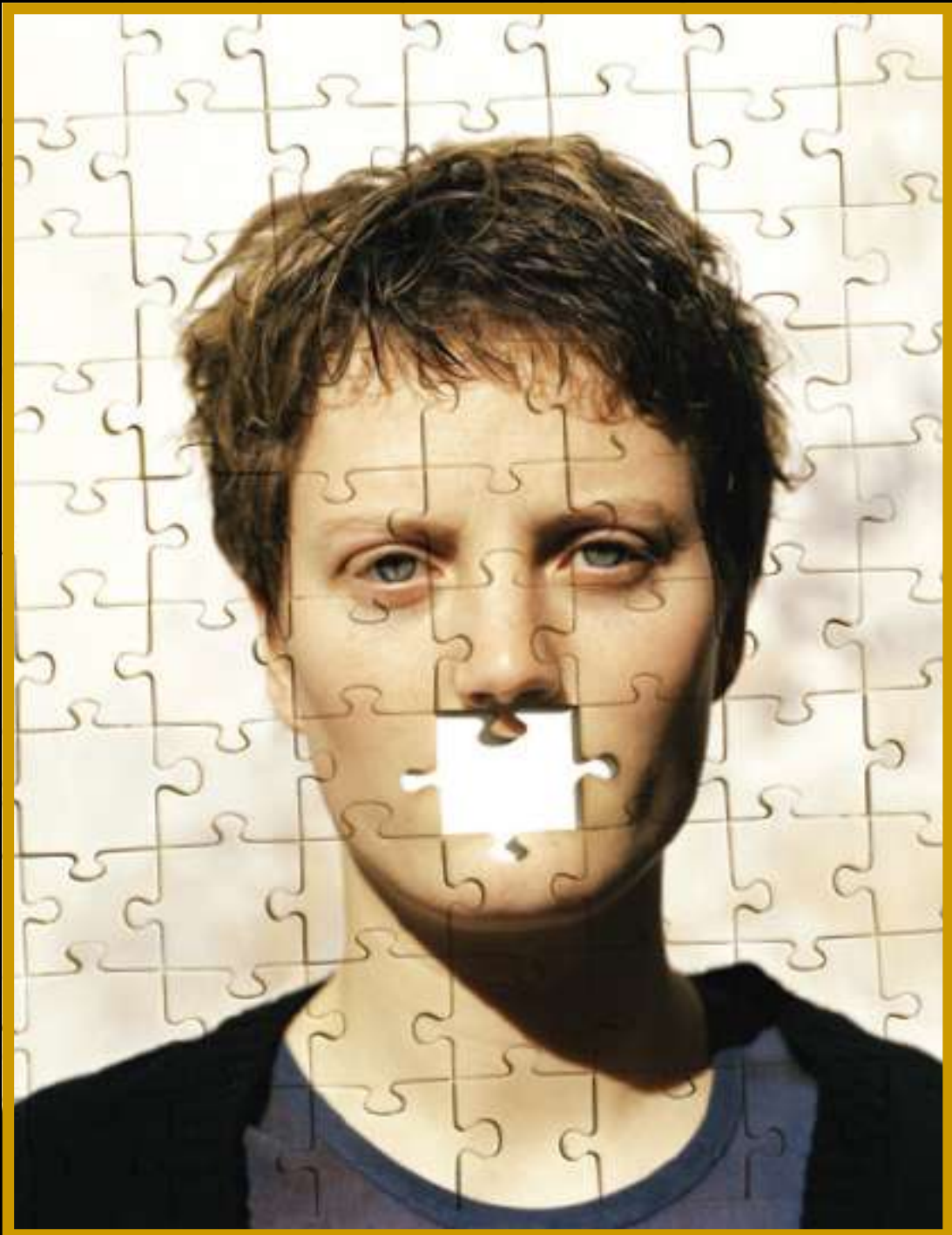




AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES
France

LAWYERS WITHOUT BORDERS FRANCE



ACTION PLAN 2010



Concrete action for Justice Without Borders

ACTIONS:

- **LAO**
- **CAMBODIA**
- **NIGERIA**
- **MALI**
- **FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA**
- **CAMEROON**
- **INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY FOR LAWYERS**
- **DEVELOPMENT OF LWB NETWORK**
- **EMERGENCY INITIATIVES**
- **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

LWB FRANCE IN LAO

The Lao Bar Association is a national institution that is responsible for the initial and continuing training of lawyers in Lao.

With a view to strengthening its capacities, the Association has shown a real interest in complementary training, especially on the use of national and international legal instruments for the protection of human rights and the right to a fair trial.

Therefore the Lao Bar Association wants to establish high-quality efficient legal services for the population.

Despite having a 2006-2020 action plan for the reform of the judicial system, the Lao State lacks the financial and human resources (69 lawyers in the country) to carry this project through to a successful conclusion alone.

LWB France and the Lao Bar Association therefore intend to work in collaboration in a diversity of domains, including:

- **the initial and continuing training of lawyers**
- **the sharing of experience with foreign players**
- **exchanges with other judicial players**
- **free access to justice for vulnerable populations**

The programme will start in 2010.

It will first concentrate on strengthening the capacities of lawyers and student lawyers.



OBJECTIVES:

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE LAWYER PROFESSION IN THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, THUS PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW

RESULTS:

- **EVERY YEAR 6 LAO CO-TRAINERS RECEIVE TRAINING THAT ENABLES THEM TO ESTABLISH HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING AUTONOMOUSLY**
- **EVERY YEAR 20-30 LAO STUDENT LAWYERS RECEIVE TRAINING ON "INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL"**

PARTNERS

The partners for this project are the Lao Bar Association and the Lao Ministry of Justice.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The European Commission and the French Development Agency



LWB FRANCE IN CAMBODIA

In 1998 the Cambodia Bar Association asked LWB France for support in the context of the reconstruction of the rule of law.

The four years of the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979) had decimated the country and bled the judicial system dry.

The Bar of Cambodia, which was re-established in 1995, had to respond to immense needs ranging from the need for access to justice, to the requirement to provide its members with training, and including the necessity to meet the major challenge of judging Khmer Rouge regime leaders before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

In 2004 a "Memorandum of Understanding" was signed that set in place the intervention of LWB France in the strengthening of the capacities of the Bar of Cambodia and of the Cambodian Centre for Lawyers Professional Training.

As an extension to this action to strengthen the capacities of lawyers and to promote better access to justice, LWB France and the Bar of Cambodia organised a **judicial assistance programme**, from 2006 to 2009, which enabled lawyers to establish themselves in the 20 regions of the country. Up until this time, lawyers had been concentrated in the capital Phnom Penh.

As the opening of the trials before the ECCC approached and there had been no organisation of the defence of civil parties, LWB France, in collaboration with the Bar of Cambodia, set up a **project for the defence of civil parties**.

This team became involved immediately in the defence of 28 civil parties in the context of the first trial, that of "Duch", the former director of the detention centre S21.

Despite the process to reform the judicial system, which included the adoption of the new penal procedure code in 2007 and the new penal code on 12 October 2009, the government acknowledges that *"the legal network has not yet been fully developed and extended, and the effectiveness of the strengthening of laws has yet to be proven"*.

The actions for the training of lawyers and student lawyers on access to justice for vulnerable populations and the support of the defence of civil parties will continue in 2010.

In partnership with and in accordance with the wishes of the Royal School of Magistrature, **actions to strengthen the capacities of magistrates** with regard to the use of human rights rules and the new penal procedure code will also be implemented.



17 February 2009: opening of the first trial before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, in the presence of voluntary LWB France lawyers



2009: French and Cambodian lawyers at the LWB France Head Office at Phnom Penh

OBJECTIVES:

To participate in re-establishing the rule of law and in promoting human rights in Cambodia, through programmes which aim to:



1/ STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITIES OF CAMBODIAN STUDENT LAWYERS AND STUDENT MAGISTRATES WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEONTOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES

2/ CONTRIBUTE TO THE HOLDING OF FAIR TRIALS BEFORE THE ECCC BY SUPPORTING THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL PARTIES GROUPS

3/ PROMOTE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH FREE JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE

RESULTS:

STUDENT MAGISTRATES AND STUDENT LAWYERS TRAINING PROGRAMME

- 55 student magistrates are trained every year in the "*Practice of Penal Procedure*"
- Every year 40-60 student lawyers receive training on "*The Role of the Lawyer*" and "*International Legal Instruments for the Protection of Human Rights*"
- 6-8 co-trainers are trained in order to be able to set up human rights training programmes autonomously

PROGRAMME FOR THE DEFENCE OF CIVIL PARTIES BEFORE THE ECCC

- The status of victims constituted as civil parties is preserved in the ECCC framework
- Victims constituted as civil parties at the first trial obtain fair justice and the implementation of compensation measures
- The victims of files received by LWB France in the context of the second trial are constituted and admitted as civil parties. These civil parties are defended efficiently before the ECCC by LWB France

ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAMME: LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- 24 Cambodian lawyers, who are present throughout the country, will provide free legal consultations at least one day per week
- Vulnerable persons subject to trial have free access to a lawyer
- Approximately 1000 cases handled each year

PARTNERS

Partner of LWB France since 2004, the Cambodia Bar Association collaborates on all aspects of the project. In the framework of training programmes, the Cambodian Centre for Lawyers Professional Training and the Royal Magistrature School participate as executive partners.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

French Development Agency, French Embassy in Cambodia, Regions Pays de la Loire and Midi Pyrénées



LWB FRANCE IN NIGERIA

In 2003 the first intervention of LWB France in Nigeria took place in order to provide support for the defence of Amina Lawal, a young woman condemned to stoning by a sharia court for having had a child outside marriage.

This first emergency intervention, in addition to obtaining Amina Lawal's acquittal, made LWB France aware of the complexity of justice in Nigeria, and especially of the scale of the challenges that it must confront:

- a difficult coexistence of regular courts, and sharia courts which regularly pronounce sentences such as: flagellation, amputation or even stoning, which contravene Nigeria's international commitments, especially the United Nations Convention against Torture (CAT)
- internal pressure to extend the jurisdiction of sharia courts throughout the country
- 500-700 persons said to be on death row awaiting execution, despite a de facto moratorium
- a real difficulty for vulnerable persons to have access to the law and justice
- etc.

In partnership with Nigerian institutions such as the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria and the Nigerian Bar Association, LWB France has implemented an initial two-year programme entitled:

"Support and endorsement of the lawyers of accused persons sentenced to death or undergoing cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment"

This programme, which is supported mainly through French cooperation, ended in October 2008 with convincing results.

Now a second programme is being set up, entitled:

« Promotion and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Torture in order for Nigerian persons subject to trial and Nigerian civil society to benefit from it fully »

This new programme, which is mainly supported by the European Commission, was launched on 1 March 2009, and will last 3 years.

In 2010 this new programme will reach its normal rhythm.



* "Torture is terror"

European Commission Anti-torture Campaign



Work session with the project partners
Lagos, April 2009

OBJECTIVES:

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONDEMNATION AND REDUCTION OF ACTS OF TORTURE AND CRUEL TREATMENT WHICH ARE INFLICTED THROUGHOUT THE JUDICIAL PROCESS, THROUGH THE MOBILISATION OF LOCAL LAWYERS AND BY INFORMING THE POPULATION

SPECIFICALLY:

- TO PROMOTE THE AWARENESS OF AND APPLICATION BY THE JUDICIAL WORLD OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE
- TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROVISION OF ACCESS TO LAW AND JUSTICE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONDEMNATION AND REDUCTION OF THE USE OF TORTURE

This action is proceeding in 4 States in Nigeria:

- Kaduna (Kaduna City)
- Kano (Kano City)
- Lagos (Lagos City)
- Plateau (Jos City)



RESULTS:

- APPROXIMATELY 1,500 PERSONS IN POLICE CUSTODY ARE BEING ASSISTED BY A LAWYER
- EVERY YEAR OF THE PROJECT PRO BONO LAWYERS PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO 500 PERSONS IN POLICE CUSTODY AND DEFEND APPROXIMATELY 500 PERSONS REMANDED IN CUSTODY
- EVERY YEAR OF THE PROJECT, 500 JUDICIAL PLAYERS ARE TRAINED AND SENSITIZED TO THE CAT AND TO A MORE LIMITED APPLICATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY
- PUBLIC AWARENESS HAS BEEN RAISED ABOUT THE FIGHT AGAINST TORTURE
- JUDICIAL ACTION TAKEN BY VICTIMS OF TORTURE IS SUPPORTED

PARTNERS

The executive partners of this project are the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON). This project is carried out with the technical and logistical support of Clifford Chance Paris.



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

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

European Commission



LWB FRANCE IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND WEST AFRICA

LWB France has noted that, since the first actions of LWB France in 1998, numerous lawyers and, more generally, defenders of human rights, in Africa, take part in training programmes organised in France by the association. Many of them participate in training programmes in France in order to compensate for the deficit of continuing education in their own countries.

Their interest in international legal instruments for the protection of human rights and in International Criminal Court procedures led to the idea of setting up training programmes in Africa.

As it was not possible to organise continuous training in each country, LWB France decided to train local trainers who will thus be able to organise on their own initiative the training programmes that judicial players and defenders of human rights need locally.

Therefore, in Central Africa and West Africa, a programme of human rights training courses for trainers has been set up, on pedagogical, methodological and legal aspects, including on the use of international legal instruments for the protection of human rights and on International Criminal Court procedures:

"Inter-regional Training for Trainers on Legal Instruments for the Protection of Human Rights and on International Criminal Court Procedures"

Central Africa

*Burundi, Cameroon, Congo
Brazzaville, Gabon,
Rwanda, DRC, Central African
Republic, Chad*

West Africa

*Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire,
Guinee Conakry,
Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo*



UP UNTIL NOW...

- **Activities carried out in West Africa:** The first three stages of the programme of training courses took place with 16 trainees in West Africa.
- **Activities carried out in Central Africa:** The training for trainers on teaching methods took place in October 2009 in Brazzaville, with 25 trainees.

PLANNED FOR 2010...

- **For West Africa:** 2 three-day training sessions, provided by the trainee trainers together with LWB France trainers. A consolidation session will take place at the end of the training courses in order to bring together these experiences and to set up a trainee network.
- **For Central Africa:** The second and third stages of the training programme (training of trainers on legal techniques and consolidation of teaching methods) will take place in 2010.

OBJECTIVES:

TO SUBSTANTIALLY STRENGTHEN LAW PRACTITIONERS' AND DEFENDERS' OF HUMAN RIGHTS CAPACITIES FOR ENSURING THE DEFENCE OF CITIZENS THROUGH A MORE SYSTEMATIC IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE A WIDE DIFFUSION OF PRINCIPLES, VALUES AND TOOLS FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE RULE OF LAW, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

SPECIFICALLY:

- TO SET UP A GROUP OF EXPERTS WHO ARE CAPABLE OF DEVISING AND ORGANISING ADAPTED TRAINING ACTIONS ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES
- TO TRAIN LAWYERS AND DEFENDERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT PROCEDURES
- TO FACILITATE THE SETTING UP OF A SOLIDARITY NETWORK FOR LAWYERS AND DEFENDERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON A REGIONAL LEVEL



RESULTS:

1. **The acquisition by trainees, who are future trainers, of knowledge and know-how for devising and organising training actions**
2. **The strengthening of the capacities of trainees in the use of international legal instruments for the protection of human rights and in International Criminal Court procedures**
3. **An efficient solidarity network for defenders of human rights**

The training programme in each sub-region takes place in 4 stages:

Stage 1: training of trainers in teaching methods

Stage 2: training of trainers in legal techniques

International legal instruments for the protection of human rights, the African regional system for the protection of human rights, and the International Criminal Court

Stage 3: consolidation of teaching methods and technical tools

Stage 4: support and assessment of trainee trainers by members of LWB France

The trainees will provide training to target groups in the relevant countries.

PARTNERS

The partners of this action are Lawyers Without Borders Mali and the Central African Human Rights League.



LCDH

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

French Development Agency, International Organisation of the Francophonie, Region Midi-Pyrénées



LWB FRANCE IN MALI

LWB Mali initiated this project. Its analysis of the situation revealed that a certain number of difficulties affect the functioning of the Malian judicial system, which can lead to a lack of access to a lawyer for detained persons, and arbitrary or wrongful detentions.

This situation exists primarily as a result of two phenomena:

- Under-representation of the lawyer profession: Mali has a population of 14 million inhabitants, but only 275 lawyers, whose activities are concentrated primarily in the capital.
- Lack of information: Malians in general and the most vulnerable populations in particular do not know their rights and therefore do not know that they have a right to justice.

LWB France, having been asked by LWB Mali to work in partnership with them in order to respond to these problems, decided to get involved in an initial pilot project targeting geographically the regions of Koulikoro, Segou and Sikasso. This one-year pilot phase ended at the end of 2009 and the partners are in the process of drawing lessons from this phase for the next part of the project.

In 2010 plans for a broader action will be drawn up, to cover a wider geographical area, and with a greater diversity of actions.



OBJECTIVES:

**TO CONSOLIDATE THE RULE OF LAW BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROVISION OF
EQUAL ACCESS TO A LAWYER AND JUSTICE FOR DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS
THROUGH THE FREE PRESENCE OF LAWYERS IN THE THREE TOWNS OF THE PROJECT**

SPECIFICALLY:

- TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO THE LAW, ESPECIALLY FOR THE MOST DEPRIVED POPULATIONS
- TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE MOST DISADVANTAGED PRISONERS HAVE ACCESS TO A LAWYER

RESULTS:

ORGANISATION OF TWO LEGAL TOURS, WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

- **180-230 PRISONERS HAVE ACCESS TO A LAWYER**
- **180-230 PERSONS BENEFIT FROM A FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION**
- **THE JUDICIAL PLAYERS AND PLAYERS OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY OF THE TOWNS OF KOULIKORO, SEGOU AND SIKASSO HAVE BEEN SENSITIZED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND THE RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS**
- **A GUIDE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING PRISONERS' RIGHTS HAS BEEN PRODUCED FOR JUDICIAL PLAYERS AND FOR THE POPULATION**

PARTNERS

For this project, the executive partner of LWB France was LWB Mali, a Malian local non-governmental organisation that initiated the project.



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES
MALI

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

*European Commission (through the structure ARIANE),
the United Nations Development Programme*



LWB FRANCE IN CAMEROON

Lawyers Without Borders Cameroon initiated the project. LWB Cameroon has existed since 2003 and since its creation it has organised major actions to promote access to fair justice for vulnerable persons.

Although, overall, the Cameroon legislative system offers a framework that generally protects of human rights, Cameroon is still confronted with difficulties in implementing legislation. **In reality, there are still frequent violations of human rights within the penal procedure, despite a new penal procedure code that is now in force, and that in principle offers more protection.** LWB France has agreed to be a partner of the project:

"Access to fair justice for the vulnerable populations of Cameroon"

This project should begin in 2010, subject to obtaining financial support, which is currently being sought (November 2009).

OBJECTIVES:



TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT AND FAIR JUDICIAL SYSTEM THAT GUARANTEES ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE PERSONS

SPECIFICALLY, THIS ACTION AIMS TO:

- STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITIES OF LAWYERS AND OTHER JUDICIAL PLAYERS THROUGH TRAINING PROGRAMMES, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE A BETTER USE OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- SET UP A SERVICE OF FREE LEGAL PENAL CONSULTATIONS AND PRO BONO JUDICIAL DEFENCE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS
- PROVIDE THE POPULATION WITH BETTER INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEFENCE RIGHTS
- SUPPORT THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS OF PERSONS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF ACTS OF TORTURE, THROUGH THE CREATION WITHIN LWB CAMEROON OF A UNIT DEDICATED TO THIS ACTION

RESULTS:

- A GROUP OF 45 PERSONS WITH A VARIETY OF EXPERTISE TRAINED TO DEVISE TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR JUDICIAL PLAYERS AUTONOMOUSLY
- 750 JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS ARE ASSIMILATING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE RIGHTS RULES AND ACQUIRING NEW CAPABILITIES
- 1,500 STUDENTS FROM 5 JUDICIAL PROFESSIONS TRAINING CENTRES ARE SENSITIZED TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND PENAL PROCEDURE
- 18,000-21,000 PERSONS SEE A DUTY LAWYER DURING THE PROJECT
- 1,400-1,500 POLICE CUSTODY CASES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE ARE HANDLED BY A GROUP OF LAWYERS DURING THE PROJECT
- 250-300 DETENTION FILES ARE HANDLED BY THE GROUP OF LAWYERS ON THE PROJECT
- THE POPULATION IS BEING MADE AWARE OF ITS RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY ITS PENAL RIGHTS: 2,500-3,000 PERSONS ARE TAKING PART IN AWARENESS CONFERENCES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND 18,000 PERSONS ARE BENEFITING FROM SERVICES AT MAIN INFORMATION CENTRES

PARTNERS

Lawyers Without Borders Cameroon is the executive partner of this project.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial support is being sought. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact the Africa service on afrique@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org



LWB FRANCE SETS UP INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY FOR LAWYERS

Everyday, throughout the world, lawyers are threatened physically and in the exercise of their profession, imprisoned, tortured, assassinated, or are victims of forced disappearance, because of their commitment to human rights.

The absence of a professional order or a strong independent bar in certain countries prevents lawyers from being supported and defended when they must deal with threats or reprisals from private persons or the State.

LWB France conceived and set up the International Observatory for Lawyers to defend these lawyers who are often assimilated to their clients or to the sensitive cause that they defend. This Observatory provides an international framework of solidarity and protection within the lawyer profession itself.

The Observatory, which was launched at the end of 2008, started its work in 2009. In 2010 the Observatory's work will mature.



OBJECTIVES:

1. TO DRAW UP A LIST OF AND INVESTIGATE CASES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD OF LAWYERS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF THREATS, PRESSURES, TORTURE, DISAPPEARANCE AND OTHER ATTACKS AGAINST THEIR MORAL AND PHYSICAL INTEGRITY
2. TO PROVIDE MATERIAL, MORAL AND/OR LEGAL ASSISTANCE
3. TO PUBLISH AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF LAWYERS IN THE WORLD WHO ARE THREATENED

RESULTS:

- APPROXIMATELY 20 CASES OF LAWYERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO ARE THREATENED ARE HANDLED AND SUPPORTED JUDICIALLY EVERY YEAR
- ALERTS ON SITUATIONS THAT ENTAIL RISKS FOR LAWYERS ARE CIRCULATED REGULARLY
- THE LAWYER PROFESSION IS MOBILISED WORLDWIDE TO SUPPORT THESE LAWYERS IN DIFFICULTY

This activity is carried out in five stages:

► **The investigation of cases of lawyers in danger:** after referral of the case, the Observatory carries out investigations into the situations of the lawyers concerned.

► **Alert procedures:** the Observatory circulates alerts in order to inform about and mobilise in response to the situations of these lawyers. Setting up of an Internet site: www.observatoire-avocats.org

► **Follow-up of cases:** the Observatory provides legal, moral and/or material support to lawyers and their families.

► **Assistance to threatened lawyers:** assistance projects will be organised locally in order to participate in the defence of the lawyer and bring support and comfort.

► **The publication of an annual report on the situation of threatened lawyers:** this report will report on the progress of the cases handled by the Observatory and on the general situation of the lawyer profession in the countries investigated by the Observatory.

PARTNERS

National Bar Councils: *Conseil National des Barreaux* (France), *Consiglio Nazionale Forense* (Italy), *Consejo General de la Abogacia Espanola* (Spain) and the Paris Bar

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

European Commission



Conseil
National
des Barreaux



LWB FRANCE SETS UP AN EMERGENCY ACTION FUND

Following several emergency interventions, in particular the defence of the Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian doctor condemned to death in Libya, LWB France wanted to set up an emergency fund for the defence of citizens and defenders of human rights.

On LWB France's initiative, *GIE Avocat* (Lawyers Economic Interest Group), which consists of the National Bars Council, the Paris Bar, and the Bar Leaders Conference, aware that French bars need to make emergency interventions when defence rights are threatened, has set up an emergency fund that provides funding rapidly when emergency interventions prove to be necessary. LWB France provides technical secretarial services for these projects.

Since the setting up of this fund, major projects have been organised:

- Supporting the defence of Hu JIA, in China
- Supporting the defence of the lawyer BAT-YALALT, in Mongolia ...



▲ CHINA, Defence of Hu Jia
April 2008

◀ Oulan Bator, MONGOLIA
Defence Bar - 31.03.09

OBJECTIVES:

TO COME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS:

1. WHEN THE DEATH SENTENCE OR A DEGRADING PUNISHMENT IS INFLICTED - WHEN DEFENCE CANNOT BE PROVIDED OR IS PROVIDED IN UNCERTAIN CONDITIONS WHICH REQUIRE EXTERNAL SUPPORT;
2. WHEN ONE OR SEVERAL DEFENDERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OR CITIZENS ARE PERSECUTED, PROSECUTED, THREATENED, ASSASSINATED, OR TORTURED BECAUSE OF THE EXERCISE OF THEIR PROFESSION OR THEIR ACTION IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

RESULTS:

- PROVIDING THE PROTECTION OF LAW FOR DEFENDERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- CONTRIBUTING TO THE REDUCTION OF ARBITRARINESS AND THE STRENGTHENING OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

PARTNERS

GIE Avocats (Lawyers Economic Interest Group), made up of the Paris Bar, the Bar Leaders Conference and the National Bars Council.



LWB FRANCE WORKS TO STRENGTHEN AND DEVELOP THE "LWB NETWORK"

At an international meeting of lawyers held in Brussels in 1992 the Lawyers Without Borders network came into being with the creation of the first organisation bearing this name.

Its purpose is to provide defence whenever necessary, when there are no lawyers to carry out this task or when local lawyers are threatened, to strengthen national justice and law players, and thus to promote the fight against impunity and the strengthening of the rule of law.

The first large operation organised by Lawyers Without Borders was "*Justice for all in Rwanda*". This operation was conceived at the end of 1994 and implemented at the end of 1996. It consisted in organising the defence by foreign lawyers of accused persons and genocide victims before the Rwandan courts.

Next, in 1998, Lawyers Without Borders grew, with the creation of national associations in France, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Mali and Mauritania. Later, other national associations were created in Canada, Cameroon, Brazil, and Guinea-Conakry.

A first attempt to set up an international federation took place with the creation of LWB World, ASF Monde, at the end of 1998. But the newness of the movement prevented this structure from taking form, as every national association was occupied with its own development and lacked the necessary energy and resources to devote themselves sufficiently to this initiative. Collaboration between the LWB associations has thus remained informal and occasional.

Up until now, the different national elements of the network have won renown everywhere through the quality and quantity of their initiatives organised in the field of law and justice. Their level of renown reflects the network's vision and coherence. The different associations continue to receive more requests for assistance than they can respond to, due especially to a lack of international representation, which gives coherence, visibility, and resources for development.

In order to continue their important work for the benefit of vulnerable populations, and at the service of the values of law and justice, the LWB organisations cannot remain on the margins of progress in international justice and of the coordination and harmonisation process which international cooperation provides.

**The project was launched during 2009.
In 2010 the actions of the project will be implemented.**



*First meeting of the LWB associations, on 6 and 7 November 2009 in Paris, on the Clifford Chance premises:
LWB Brazil, LWB Cameroon, LWB France, LWB Guinea-Conakry,
LWB Italy, LWB Mali, LWB Mauritania, LWB Sweden and LWB Switzerland*

OBJECTIVES:

**TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP THE SERVICE OF ACCESS TO LAW AND JUSTICE
PROVIDED FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

SPECIFICALLY:

1. TO PROVIDE THE NETWORK WITH A COMMON CHARTER
2. TO SHARE TOOLS AND EXPERIENCES IN ORDER TO PROMOTE A BETTER DEVELOPMENT OF THE LWB ASSOCIATIONS
3. TO COORDINATE AND HARMONISE THE ACTIONS OF LWB ASSOCIATIONS THAT ALREADY EXIST, IN ORDER TO COMPLEMENT THEIR PROJECTS AND STRENGTHEN THEIR IDENTITY
4. TO PROMOTE AND ENSURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK THROUGH THE CREATION OF NEW NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
5. TO PROMOTE ACTIVE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE EXISTING ASSOCIATIONS



RESULTS:

- A COHERENT AND EFFICIENT NETWORK TO SERVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE LWB MOVEMENT
- A COMMON ETHICAL CHARTER HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY EVERYONE, WHICH SETS OUT THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK, AND THE MEANS FOR ACCOMPLISHING THEM
- A NETWORK THAT IS BETTER ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONALLY, AND WHICH GIVES THE BEST RESPONSE TO POPULATIONS THAT NEED ACCESS TO LAW AND JUSTICE
- A STRONG AND COHERENT IMAGE OF THE NETWORK REPRESENTING COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WORKING FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE
- A STRONG CONTRIBUTION OF THE NETWORK TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RULE OF LAW WHERE LWB ORGANISATIONS INTERVENE
- A NETWORK THAT IS IDENTIFIED AND RECOGNISED AS BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE ACTIVE AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT IN THE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL FIELD

PARTNERS

The national associations "Lawyers Without Borders"

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

This project benefits from the support of the Clifford Chance Foundation



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



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES France

LAWYERS WITHOUT BORDERS FRANCE

LWB France TRAINING PROGRAMMES

In addition to its status as an international solidarity organisation, Lawyers without Borders France is a recognised training organisation.

THESE TRAINING PROGRAMMES ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ELIGIBLE FOR DIF FUNDING (TRAINING PAID FOR BY EMPLOYER UNDER INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO TRAINING SCHEME) AND APPROVED BY THE FRENCH NATIONAL BARS COUNCIL.

THEY ARE ORGANISED BY PRACTITIONERS WHO ARE EDUCATIONAL ENGINEERING SPECIALISTS AND WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS.

Training Calendar 2010

TRAINING OF TRAINERS

- « **FUNDAMENTALS** »

1st session : 9-10 et 16-17 January (Paris)

2nd session : 12-13-14-15 May (Sommières)

- « **CONSOLIDATION** »

4-5-6 November (Paris)

THE LAWYER'S TOOLS IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT & THE FAIR TRIAL

1st session : 15-16-17 April (Toulouse)

2nd Session : 7-8-9 October (Paris)

DEFENCE BEFORE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS & AD-HOC AND SPECIAL TRIBUNALS

27-28-29-30 October (Paris)

REGIONAL SYSTEMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:

AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN

18-19-20 November (Paris)

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