

Newsletter – January 2008

The Lawyers Without Borders France team wishes you all the best for this year.

In 2008, we will celebrate LWB France 10 years of activity (founded 26th April 1998) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 60 years (signed on the 10th December 1948).

[LWB France registers a complaint against Colonel Kadhafi:](#) [François CANTIER, LWB France president explains](#)

Chapter 1: Press release of the 12th November 2007

LWB France invites the 5 Bulgarians nurses and the Palestinian doctor freed from Lybia.

Since their liberation, they expressed their wish to come to France to give their testimony along and, by the same occasion, thank all those who supported them up for more ten 8 years, while they were locked up and sentenced to death for a crime they had not perpetuated.

Chapter 2nd: Press release of the 9th December 2007

The 5 Bulgarian nurses and Palestinian doctor visit is cancelled.

“Ours guests thought it would be best not to come to France while president Kadhafi was there. We thought with them of making them come later, within a set of conditions that would ensure their tranquility and the due respect towards the hardship they suffered of” Mr. François CANTIER, lawyer and LWB France president explains.

Chapter 3rd: Press release of the 12 th December 2007

“A complaint has been filed on my behalf by Lawyers Without Borders France in order to get this dictator arrested” announced the Palestinian doctor Ashraf Joumaa al-Hajouj.

“This has nothing to do with revenge. I want justice to be applied. They (the Lybians) must pay, take responsibilities for what they have done” he explained.

This complaint aims directly (it names it) at Colonel Kadhafi along with 5 tops rank police officers on the charge of tortures” against the Palestinian doctor, explains François CANTIER, defense lawyer, LWB President, Ashraf Joumaa al-Houjouj.

COMPLAINT AGAINST Colomel Kadhafi December 13th 2007

In Paris, the Palestinian doctor listed a complaint against colonel Kadhafi, 5 top rank militaries and a doctor on the charge of torture, his lawyer François CANTIER announced.

“Doctor el Hajouj is extremely grateful to France for having freed him from Colonel Kadhafi’s jails. But he advocates that France, the Human Rights country, must not welcome such a person” François CANTIER, lawyer, explained.

His client gave up coming to France this work along with the Bulgarian nurses, as it was planned. Imprisonned from Febrary 1999 to July 2007, doctor al Hajouj said he was victim of tortures by electric shocks, hits, and tells that his jailers had him raped by a dog.

Thierry Lévêque

EMERGENCY MISSION – CHINA

Following alerts on lawyers and Human Rights defenders situation in China, LWBF sends an emergency mission there.

This emergency mission aimed at taking care of 4 lawyers who were threatened and / or kept in detention only because they had tried to do their job. It also allowed LWBF to discuss with local actors about their hopes in the evolution of Human Rights and lawyers protection. A long-term collaboration is under discussion.

This year is the one of Beijing Olympic Games China will concentrate world's attention for a while. Thus it is essential that Human Rights be a major preoccupation in that country, and that Chinese Humans Rights defenders beneficieate of international solidarity.

FRENCH SPEAKING AFRICA PROJECT

Interregional Human Rights trainer training Central and West Africa

Training:

- **International Juridical Tools (IJT)**
- **International Penal Court (IPC)**

To face the needs for training on IJT that protect Human Rights and on the IPC, the mechanism that LWBF thought of creating will allow the constitution of a trainers breading ground, so that they ca, take on local training in turn.

This multiplying effect aims at autonomizing local actors. The trained African actors will then be able to identify Human Rights violation situations and face those using international resorts, including the IPC.

THE POINT IS TO BUILD UP A DOUBLE TRAINING CRUSE TO IJT AND TO THE IPC, ONE IN CENTRAL AFRICA, THE OTHER IN WEST AFRICA, IN THREE STEPS:

Step 1: educational techniques training (6 days) Step 2: juridical technique training – IJT and IPC (7 days) Step 3: support and assessment (5 days)
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Carrying out: step 1 of training in West Africa - Porto Novo, Benin

From 10th to 16th December 2007, LWBF carried out a trainers training to educational techniques.

19 students from 9 West African French Speaking Countries attended this training (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo).

Student's profiles: Bars representatives and staff from civil society organization engaged in Human Rights defense and access to justice (INGO from mission Pace, Democracy, Human Rights of the IOF and associations affiliated to the IFHR).

Results after the 6 training days

Besides bringing educational and methodological abilities to the students, the training also allowed to:

- Build up a group of resource–person able to hold trainings in their own countries
- To make easier the constitution of a regional network of lawyers who train and defend Human Rights.

This 1st step of training makes the students ready to attend the technical training (step 2) then to conceive and animate Human Rights trainings in the sub-region.

Training's interest

Despite that most of the students are engaged in trainings, in the bosom of their associations or Bars, they declared they didn't know anything about the themes talked by the trainings. That confirms the real need of trainer's trainings so that these resources persons can deliver better adapted and more efficient trainings.

The opening ceremony of the "Interregional Human Rights trainer's trainings" program has taken place on the 10th December - at the occasion of the UDHR's anniversary. This ceremony has been honored by the presence of M. Ahanhanzo Glele, representing the French Speaking Organization, and of M. Alia, director of Human Rights of Benin Ministry of Justice.

We will soon communicate the dates chosen for:

- The step 1 training in Central Africa (grouping Cameroun, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, CDR, Central Africa Republic and Tchad)
- The step 2 training in West Africa.

CAMBODIA PROJECT

In November 2007, 7 LWBF members were in mission in Cambodia to realize 2 trainings:

- 1. Trainings for the Cambodian lawyer's students from the Lawyers professional training center in Phnom Penh Law University.**

This training was the following of the July 2007 one, about "lawyer role". The theme of this training was "The Internal Law use of International treaties ratified by Cambodia".

44 lawyers' students have benefit of this training.

Thank to this training, the program led with the lawyer's students stopped. But, because of the needs expressed by the population, a new project is proposed to continue the action for lawyer's students training of the following promotion.

To autonomize the local partners, this new project plan to let a bigger space for the training of the co-trainers.

- 2. The Siem Reap colloquium trainings on " The Penal Procedure Code, condition of fair trial"**

60 peoples were in this colloquium (lawyers of the Juridical Help Program, Magistrate, prosecutor, clerk...)

The goal of this colloquium was to create a share and communication field between juridical actors about the New Cambodian Penal Procedure Code.

That's when the LWBF members have elaborated a new kind of training, which will broach about every penal procedure stats (inquiry, custody, investigation, sentence, appeals) for which the new Code was adopted.

Another mission is planned for February 2008, for the "Juridical Help Program".

Training is planned for lawyers who provide juridical help in province courts. This program, which is the following of 2007, will carry on 2008 with 2 others missions in July and October.

NIGERIA PROJECT

News:

- December 2007: violence wave in Bauchi.
- Amnesty International denounces the secret execution by hung. AI made a list of 700 condemned to death, including 200 who are still waiting in death row for 10 years.
- 785 “armed robbers” were shot down by the police: Human Rights Watch have asked for an inquiry about the systematical use of violence by the police.

The LWBF mission (November 2007).

1. Trainings in Ibadan (15 lawyers of the LAC and Justice Ministry officials).
2. Participation to the LAC forum.
3. Prisons’ visits and steady cases in Abuja and Lagos, with a particular attention on minor prisoners’ cases.
4. Today, the LWBF team works on a “LWB Nigeria’ creation.
5. The volunteer lawyers of LWBF follow the 18 homosexuals’ trial, threatened of death penalty.

Next missions: steady cases and training planned in February 2008.

COLUMBIA PROJECT

2007: towards a better safety for lawyers.

The missions carried out by LWBF allowed taking a cruses of threatened lawyers’ situation, to accommodate some of them at the House of lawyers in Bogota, and helps them up with particularity sensitive’s procedures.

For at least 2 lawyers, exile was thought of as the only possibility of survival.

NB: the 2007 report on lawyers’ situation is being published.

The LWBF activities in Columbia will continue in collaboration with the House of Lawyers in Bogota, the Defensoria Publica and the associations of independents’ lawyers:

1. Trainings on Penal Charging System where the penal procedures Code is apply.
2. Training of trainers in victims’ defense and presentation.
3. Support and expertise for the creation of a national lawyers’ institution.

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