“Where the defence is not allowed to get a word”
Here is a summary of the activities which we carried out in 2010, thanks, as always, to the continued commitment of our volunteers in France and abroad, and the hard work of our employees, both at our headquarters in Toulouse and in the countries where we work.

We have had to win and maintain the trust of supporters and donors, the ranks of which swelled again in 2010 joined, among others, by the United Nations Democracy Fund.

New partners joined us, including Editions Dalloz and the communication agency LEXposia.

New projects came into being, and many have been devised and are awaiting funding, including projects in Guinea, Haiti and Nicaragua.

We further strengthened our organisation by improving how our headquarters operates and liaises with volunteers, and by developing appropriate training courses aimed at them.

With the “Network” project, we are helping to develop the ASF Movement and its activities across four continents, firm in the belief that it is up to local actors in the fields of justice and the law to take the initiative and carry out initiatives which are appropriate to their context.

The International Observatory for Lawyers under threat because of their work is developing rapidly, and not a moment too soon given the role played by lawyers in democratic protests which expose them to ever more danger.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those involved in our work and who support us.

We will continue to be deserving of their trust as much as the hopes of citizens around the world who are deprived of justice.”

François CANTIER
Founding President
of Avocats Sans Frontières France
(Lawyers Without Borders France)
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Our mission

To help give the most vulnerable people the protection of the law, based on the principles of:

► Presumption of innocence
► Everyone’s right to be defended by a free and independent lawyer
► Everyone’s right to a fair trial

Our mandate

To help protect universally recognised human rights by ensuring that the accused and victims are defended

To work wherever appropriate and necessary to strengthen the rule of law

To act against impunity by ensuring that fair trials are held

To protect and defend lawyers and human rights defenders under threat because of their work and commitment

To promote access to the law and justice for all citizens

Executive Board

President: François CANTIER
Vice-President: Philippe MORICEAU
Vice-President: Ivan PANEFF
Treasurer: Fabienne TRUSSES NAPROUS
Secretary: Gérard DUPUY

Board of Directors

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Men and women working for justice without borders:

They give their support, know-how and time to the association and its missions voluntarily...

This represented over 22,000 hours of work in 2010.

Anna BARNETT BLUM, Evelyne BOILEAU BRANDOMIR, Zolika BOUABDALLAH, Sabah BOUMESLA, Julien BRUN, Philippe CANONINE, Marie-José CANTIER-HERMANN, Mechtildé CARLIER, Sarah CASEY, Emmanuelle CERF, Michelle CUMMING, Pierre-Frédéric DEGON, Annie DELAHAIE, Laure DESFORGES, Emilie DEVAU_CRESSION, Hélène DIRIBARNE-SOMERS, Ferdinand DJAMMEN-NZEPA, Nicole DUMAS, Gérard DUPUY, Isabelle DURAND, Marie-Dominique FLOUZAT-AUBA, Françoise FRAIGNEAU, Laurent GAUDON, Françoise GAUTRY, Martine GAUVREAU, Pierre GROMNICKI, Loïc GUERIN, Angela GUINAUDIE, Martine JACQUIN, Marianne LAGRUE, Caroline LAMBERT DE CESSEAU, Marie Line LETOUSEY, Charlotte LEVI, Sonia LODS, Daniel LOSQ, Catherine MABILLE, Jeanne Gisette MARE, Jean-Sébastien MARIEZ, Christine MARTINEAU, Françoise MATHE, Sally-Anne MCMAHON, Emmanuel MOLINA, Valia MORGENBESSER, Philippe MORICEAU, Nathalie MULLER-SARALLIER, Henri NAYRAL DE PUYBUSQUE, Barnabé NEKUE, Lionel NJEUKAM, Cécile OSTIER, Cécile PAILLARD, Ivan PANEFF, Charlotte PERDRIX, Alix PHIQUEPAL D’ARUSMONT, Victorine PIMBO NKENNGNI, Elisabeth RABESANDRATANA, Vincent RICOULEAU, François ROGER, Benoit ROUSSEAU, Patricia SCOTT-JULIEN, Emilie SEVESTRE, Ghislaine SEZE, Michèle STERN, Fabienne TRUSSES-NAPROUS, Anne VIDAL, Désiré ZOGO

Finally, huge thanks go to the students who made their own contribution to the association in 2010:

Kerzen Abdulrahman, Aliénor Ader, Rami Battika, Sébastien Lacroix, Antoine Lombard, Chloé Monfort, Virginie Rufin, Adeline Rumpler, Séverine Soulé, Maurice Syménouh
Analysis of resources

The work of ASF France is mainly funded through operating subsidies received from our public and private partners. In 2010, these subsidies represented 86.67% of the association’s resources.

What might look like a weakness, or perhaps a source of dependency, is mitigated by the high number and diversity of the association’s partners.

The French government, through its ministries, embassies, co-operation organisations and local and regional authorities, provides the highest amount of financial support for ASF France projects, contributing 39.23% of the resources obtained during 2010.

Next in line are international co-operation organisations, including the European Union, the United Nations Democracy Fund and the International Organisation for the French-Speaking World, which respectively donated 21.59%, 3.81% and 2.35% to ASF France initiatives.

Private organisations and foundations provided 15.47% of the resources for ASF France in 2010, principally the Clifford Chance Foundation (Charities Aids Foundation).

13.33% of the association’s resources in 2010 were its own resources. These resources came, in order, from donations from individuals and businesses, proceeds generated by training courses in France, dues, merchandise and other sources.

French bar associations make an active contribution to the association’s projects and support its initiatives. In 2010, this support totalled 4.23%. It is also worth pointing out that a number of French bar associations are members of ASF France and pay annual dues to the association.

Members

Membership is up on 2009. In 2010, 162 individuals and 44 legal entities were up to date with their dues.

The graph below summarises the association’s various sources of funds.

![Graph showing sources of funds](image-url)
Analysis of Costs

As in the previous year, ASF France initiatives were mainly focused in Asia and Africa. In addition to these geographically specific initiatives, there were 2 multi-country projects, namely the formation of the ASF Network and the International Observatory for Lawyers (in partnership with the French National Bar Council, the Paris Law Society, the Consejo General de la Abogacia española and the Consiglio Nazionale Forense).

Initiatives carried out in Asia:
As has been the case for several years, ASF France carried out major initiatives in Cambodia. The costs of the projects in this country represented 29.04% of the association’s resources. At the present time, 3 separate initiatives are underway:
1/ Legal Aid Programme
2/ Defending Complainants in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
3/ Training courses for young lawyers and young magistrates
Since 2010, ASF France has also been working in Laos through a training programme aimed at young trainee lawyers. This project represented 3.43% of the association’s costs.

Initiatives carried out in Africa:
Two major initiatives were carried out on the African continent in 2010.
The anti-torture project in Nigeria (PROCAT) was in its second year in 2010. 15.85% of the association’s resources were spent on this project in 2010.
The interregional project to provide trainers with human rights training in Central African and West Africa represented 14.40% of the costs for 2010.

Formation of the Avocats Sans Frontières Network:
This project, which aims to bring together the various ASF associations worldwide in one network, is continuing. In 2010, 10.77% of the resources were devoted to this initiative.

International Observatory for Lawyers:
This project to defend and protect lawyers under threat, carried out several defence missions in 2010. It also provided material support for several lawyers under threat. This represented 3.69% of the costs incurred in 2010.

Allocation of Costs between LWB France Initiatives

- Human Rights Festivals: 3,77%
- Communication: 1,50%
- Overheads - HQ: 17,54%
- International Observatory for Lawyers: 3,69%
- Training Young Lawyers in Laos: 3,43%

in 2010
- Formation of the LWB Network: 10,77%
- Interregional Human Rights Training Course for Trainers in Africa: 14,40%
- Legal Aid and Defending Complainants in the ECCC in Cambodia: 25,89%
- Nigeria - PROCAT: 15,85%
- Trainers and Young Magistrates in Cambodia: 3,15%
Law Organisations, Societies and Offices

With the support of a number of bar associations:
Agen, Aix-en-Provence, Albertville, Albi, Alençon, Amiens, Angers, Avignon, Bayonne, Béthune, Blois, Bordeaux, Caen, Chartres, Clermont-Ferrand, Colmar, Créteil, Cusset, Dijon, Dunkerque, Hauts-de-Seine, Laval, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Meaux, Mont-de-Marsan, Mulhouse, Nantes, Poitiers, Quimper, Rennes, La Roche-sur-Yon, Saint-Brieuc, Saint-Etienne, Seine-Saint-Denis, Strasbourg, Tarn-et-Garonne, Toulouse, Tours, Tulle, Valenciennes, Val d’Oise, Vienne.

Institutions

French local and regional authorities

Businesses

In 2010, Avocats Sans Frontières France was pleased to welcome two new partner businesses:
Dalloz: legal publisher and training organisation
LEXposia: communication agency specialising in the legal and numerical professions
Projects led in 2010

Africa
Asia
Observatory
ASF Network
Training courses
ASF France has been carrying out initiatives in Nigeria for nearly 10 years, following its intervention to support the defence of Amina Lawal, a young woman sentenced to death by stoning by a Sharia court because she had had a child outside of marriage. She was defended at the time by Hauwa Ibrahim, a female Nigerian lawyer. This trial brought to light the many problems inherent in the Nigerian judicial system.

Numerous challenges:

Despite the fact that Nigeria has ratified a number of international human rights treaties, their effectiveness on the ground is patchy, with fundamental rights flouted during police investigations, legal aid services not working properly, abuse of process, etc. Torture is commonly used in policy custody to extract confessions. Legal aid is practically non-existent, making access to the law and the justice system extremely difficult for vulnerable people.

Project

Promoting the principles of the UN Convention against Torture (ProCAT)  
March 2009 – March 2012

Objective: to help reduce torture and mistreatment committed during judicial proceedings by mobilising Nigerian legal actors and raising public awareness.

Activities in 2010:

1. Legal aid:

To provide legal support for the victims of torture or mistreatment between their arrest and imprisonment.

How: by identifying cases, putting in place “on call” systems in police stations, setting up alert mechanisms and bringing disciplinary or legal proceedings against the perpetrators of torture.

2. Training legal actors:

Five training sessions carried out:

An initial series of 3-day training courses took place between March and July in the States of Kaduna, Lagos and Kano. On each occasion, these training courses were aimed at an audience of around twenty people made up of magistrates, lawyers, police and prison staff. They focused on the principle of the prohibition of torture.

Following on from the first training course in Kaduna, one judge said that he had delivered more judgments in favour of plaintiffs to assert their fundamental rights. The ProCAT training had widened his scope of knowledge about human rights.

For the first time in the country, decisions were given recognising instances of torture, and judges acted accordingly by releasing and compensating victims.
A second series of training courses began in Kaduna in October, continuing in Lagos in November. This time, the 3-day training course, aimed at another group of 20 people, was followed by a half-day round table discussion bringing together the main legal actors.

Consequently, these actors started a dialogue about the prohibition on torture, resulting in codes of conduct and good practices.

3. Raising awareness:

Posters drawing attention to the formal prohibition on torture in the 4 languages spoken in the project States were displayed and circulated in various strategic locations, such as police stations and courts. These posters pointed out the option of speaking to a project lawyer free of charge using the telephone number provided.

Radio adverts in pidgin (English Creole) were broadcast in the 4 project States in November. These used a short dialogue to explain the prohibition on torture and the option of legal representation.

182 cases were identified by project lawyers in prisons in the 4 target States
19 people were released on bail
17 people had the charges against them dropped and were released
3 proceedings brought in the High Court in Nigeria on behalf of the victims of torture were successful: these people were released and received around €5,000 in damages

Outlook

Legal aid: continued follow-up of the cases identified and identification of new cases; bringing legal proceedings against the perpetrators of torture to get them sentenced and act against impunity.

Training of legal actors: there are plans to train another hundred legal actors in the project target States, but also to continue and perpetuate the holding of round table discussions bringing together the main judicial actors from each State in order to share good practices.

Raising awareness: displaying posters and broadcasting radio adverts is continuing; awareness-raising workshops are going to be run in each State, with local leaders and civil society associations. Flyers and awareness-raising booklets defining what torture is and explaining the procedure any victim or witness of such a crime needs to follow are going to be distributed.

Project team members

Ivan Paneff (project leader), Jean-Sébastien Mariez (case follow-up adviser), Cécile Ostier (training course adviser), Pierre-Frédéric Degon (awareness-raising adviser), Zolika Bouabdallah, Sabah Boumesla, Marielle Breuil, Julien Brun, Mechtildé Cartier, Emilie Devaucresson, Laurent Gaudon, Loïc Guérin, Catherine Mabille, Valia Morgenbesser, Lionel Njeukam, Charlotte Perdrix, Victoire Pimbo, Michèle Stern, Honoré Yana, Désiré Zogo

Local office in Abuja: Hélène Caby (head of mission), Rotkang Kyuni (co-ordinating lawyer), Angela Uwandu (legal assistant), Zubairu Atta (communication officer), Obiora Diru (logistician)

Lawyers working in turn in the 4 States: Adeyinka Adebayo, Ibrahim Adams Andrew, Remi Atunwa, Bolaji Gabari, Joanne Gyang, Paul Hammache, Lydia Eniola Laka, Bryan Olekanma

Partners

Legal Aid Council of Nigeria, Nigerian Bar Association, Human Rights Institute

Co-financed by the European Commission
IN RESPONSE TO A NEED:
IN RESPONSE TO THE TRAINING NEEDS RAISED BY JUSTICE SYSTEM PROFESSIONALS IN FRENCH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, ASF FRANCE DEVELOPED AN INTERREGIONAL PROJECT TO PROVIDE TRAINERS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING IN THE REGIONS OF WEST AFRICA AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

Project

Interregional human rights training course for trainers in French-speaking countries in Africa

December 2007 – December 2011

Objective: to create a network of human rights trainers-defenders in French-speaking countries in Africa.

By means of a four-stage complete curriculum:

1. training for trainers in teaching methods
2. training for trainers in legal technique, i.e. international legal instruments for human rights protection and the International Criminal Court
3. strengthening of teaching methods
4. tandem training and assessment

Activities in 2010

West Africa:

After having received training in teaching and legal methods, followed by an enhancement session, the group entered the implementation phase in 2010. Group members taught two training sessions in turn, under the supervision of trainers from ASF France.

Consequently, initial tandem training took place in April in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). The training course related to the rights of vulnerable people, such as women and children, and was aimed at around twenty legal experts and defenders of women’s rights. A training course on the same subject was held in Bamako in October.

This enabled group members to hone their training techniques.
Central Africa:

Following a first session on teaching methods for training held in 2009 in Brazzaville in the Congo, the 22 group members met up again in Yaoundé in January 2010 for 8 days of legal training on international legal tools protecting human rights, the International Criminal Court and the African regional human rights protection system. This was followed in September 2010 by an enhancement session in Libreville.

First-hand account

“I can definitely say that the Central Africa interregional training course has been pivotal in my career as a lawyer, giving me a better understanding of international criminal law mechanisms and procedure, and of a good many themes of the programme. Another benefit of this training course which I found unique was the acquisition of teaching methods which have enabled me to accumulate know-how and refine defence strategies and legal technique. An experience such as this has necessarily had a number of valuable knock-on effects, providing a different approach to understanding criminal cases both locally and internationally. I would like to praise this essential training course, and strongly encourage those lawyers who have not yet taken it to sign up for one of the modules.”

Bertrand Homa Moussavou
Lawyer at the Gabon Bar

Outlook

The Central Africa group will enter the implementation phase in 2011 to complete the programme. A first tandem training course will take place at the end of March 2011 in Pointe-Noire on the subject of violence and the legal tools available to human rights defenders in order to help victims. The second in the final half of 2011 will relate to the implementation of the right to a fair trial.

Project team members

Marielle Breuill, Marie-José Cantier-Herrmann, Caroline Lambert de Cesseau, Françoise Mathe, Philippe Moriceau, Hugo Moudiki Jombwe, Seydou Doumbia, Honoré Yana and Claude-Joël Paka

Co-financing

A prime example of co-operation between ASF associations:
Since they were first set up, ASF Mali and ASF France have had extremely close ties. Lawyers from ASF Mali have taken part in the training courses run by ASF France in France and Africa concerning international legal instruments protecting human rights, the International Criminal Court, etc. In 2005, ASF France and ASF Mali successfully organised a training course in Bamako on the International Criminal Court.
This project came out of the observations made by ASF Mali regarding justice system problems in the country.

Project
Legal trips to Mali: Access to the law and the justice system for vulnerable groups
June 2008 – February 2010

Objective: To facilitate access to the law and the justice system for prisoners and groups thanks to the presence of lawyers free of charge in the towns of Koulikoro, Ségou and Sikasso.

Where?
Koulikoro, Ségou, Sikasso

Activities in 2010:
2010 saw the conclusion of the programme with the publication of Charters of Good Practices for various justice system professions and a booklet raising awareness about prisoners’ rights.

Results in figures:
461 people received free legal advice following two legal trips to the three towns.
231 prisoners were defended by the lawyers to give them access to the law and the justice system.
155 judicial actors (criminal police and police officers, lawyers, registrars, notaries, prison wardens) were trained during training workshops on the theme of criminal procedure and human rights held in the three towns.

Outlook
ASF Mali and ASF France are working on a new integrated project on the themes of legal aid training and access to the law for local justice system actors.
Avocats Sans Frontières France would like to thank the agency Publicis Belgium for donating this publicity campaign made up of three visuals.
The involvement of ASF France in Cambodia dates back to 2005, when the association was approached by the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia to strengthen the capabilities of judicial actors ahead of the trials of former leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime.

The partnership with the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia has enabled various initiatives to be set up since 2005 in the fields of legal aid and strengthening the capabilities of justice system actors in Cambodia.

Since May 2008, a team from ASF France, made up of Cambodian and foreign lawyers, has been helping victims of the Khmer Rouge regime who want to bring a civil action in the Extraordinary Chambers set up in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). In fact, in view of the extremely high number of victims, the funds allocated by the court were not sufficient to cover their legal representation. To ensure fair justice, this shortfall therefore had to be overcome.

To date, two trials are underway in the ECCC. The first trial involves Kaing Guek Eav (also known as Duch), the former governor of prison S21, a detention and torture centre in Phnom Penh where more than 12,000 people died. The second trial involves four senior figures in the Khmer Rouge regime, namely Kieu Samphan (former head of the State of Democratic Kampuchea), Ieng Sary (former minister for foreign affairs), Ieng Thirith (former minister for social affairs), and Nuon Chea (former Prime Minister of Democratic Kampuchea in 1976). This second trial is currently in the preparatory phase.

Project 1
Defending complainants in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
May 2008 – June 2011

In the framework of the second trial, international lawyers who are members of ASF France volunteered to take it in turns to work with the permanent team in Cambodia on preparing cases, drafting case statements and monitoring cases in court.

Several forums on representing complainants were also conducted in various provinces of Cambodia.

Objectives
For Cambodian and international lawyers who are members of ASF France to defend complainants in the framework of trials in the ECCC.

The team of ASF France legal experts and lawyers travel to several provinces in Cambodia to meet victims who want to bring civil actions.
Opposite in Kampot, June 2010

Figures:
Defending 28 complainants in the ECCC in the framework of the trial of Duch, trial no. 1.
Preparing 1,175 cases for complainants in the framework of the trial of the four former senior figures, trial no. 2.
Work of the team

Preparing cases, informing and supporting complainants
The ASF France defence team has repeatedly travelled around the country in order to meet complainants, particularly in the provinces of Kompong Thom, Preah Vihear, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Cham, Kandal, Pursat, Svay Rieang, Prey Veng and Kampong Speu.

These meetings made it possible to:
- pass on information about the progress of the trial
- collect first-hand accounts and documents to prepare and complete each complainant’s case

Several forums to inform the complainants were organised by various structures, associations and NGOs:

Forum organised by the Victims Support Section (VSS): as part of these forums, the lawyers from the various groups defending the complainants, including ASF France, trained “co-ordinators” (whether or not they were complainants themselves) to explain the procedure to other victims. The three themes tackled were the role of complainants, first-hand accounts and compensation.

The team was also involved in other forums organised by Cambodian civil society organisations, particularly ADHOC (Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association) in the region of KAMPONG THOM.

Defending complainants
ASF France set up a defence team made up of Cambodian and international lawyers. As procedure requires, the international lawyers carried out the formalities to register with the Bar Association of Cambodia and the ECCC, including taking the oath.

July 2010: verdict in the first trial delivered by the trial chamber
On 26 July 2010, the trial chamber of the ECCC delivered its verdict concerning trial no. 1: Kaing Guek Eav. The accused was found guilty and sentenced to 30 years in prison for the crime of persecution, which is a crime against humanity, and for serious violations of the 1949 Geneva Convention. During this trial, the Cambodian and international team from ASF France represented the largest number of victims, with 28 complainants.
Outlook

The ASF France team defending complainants is continuing to provide victims with regular information.

2011 should see the judgement on appeal for the first trial delivered, as well as the start of the judgement of the trial court in the second trial.

The team of Cambodian and international lawyers will continue to defend the groups of complainants in these two trials.

“I brought a civil action for my two brothers, my sister-in-law and my nephew, who were executed, and for my two uncles and my aunt, who died because of forced labour. I am very pleased with the support of Avocats Sans Frontières France. The association held regular meetings ahead of the start of the trial, supported us in making complaints and is the reason why we were able to be recognised as complainants. The ASF France lawyers still look after their clients and regularly keep us informed about what is going on in court.”

Comments from an interview with Mrs NHOEM Kim Hoeurn, complainant in the framework of case no. 1.

Project team members

Project managers: Martine JACQUIN and Philippe CANONNE
ASF France member lawyers involved in this project:
Evelyne BOILEAU BRANDOMIR, François CANTIER, Annie DELAHAIE, Laure DESFOGES, Hervé DIAKIESE, Ferdinand DJAMMEN NZEPA, Nicole DUMAS, Isabelle DURAND, Françoise GAUTRY, Daniel LOSQ, Christine MARTINEAU, Barnabé NEKUIE, Victorine PIMBO, Marie Paule PONDY, Fabienne TRUSSES NAPROUS, Elisabeth RABESANDRATANA
ASF France permanent team in Phnom Penh:
MOCH Sovannary, lawyer, KIM Menghky, lawyer, Brice POIRIER, co-ordinator, SAY Sochamroeun, legal expert, OEURN Sambo, legal expert, LIMCH Heang, legal expert

Partners

Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Co-financed by: French Development Agency, French Embassy in Cambodia
Project 2

Legal aid for vulnerable people in Cambodia

To help strengthen the rule of law in Cambodia, ASF France and the Bar Association of Cambodia agreed to facilitate access to the justice system and the law for vulnerable groups, even in the country’s most remote provinces.

Since 2006, the Legal Aid project has enabled a lawyer offering free consultations to open up in each province. The first phase of the project was completed in 2009. This programme was relaunched in January 2010 in partnership with the Bar Association of Cambodia. Lawyers in the legal aid programme receive support throughout the project and three training sessions per year to strengthen their capabilities.

Project objectives:
To play a part in promoting fair justice and restoring the rule of law in Cambodia.
To strengthen the legal profession and disseminate the rules and principles protecting human rights to vulnerable groups in Cambodia.
To give vulnerable groups free access to a lawyer and a high quality defence throughout Cambodia.

Activities
To organise and develop a legal aid system throughout the country for vulnerable groups.
To provide lawyers with ongoing training in national and international criminal justice procedures.

Legal aid

Most of the lawyers selected in 2010 had taken part in the first phase of the programme implemented between 2006 and January 2009. Despite the fact that the project had stopped in January 2009, these lawyers had kept their provincial offices, and most of them were continuing to take on a proportion of cases free of charge. Lawyers new to the programme received help to open their provincial offices.

Achievements in 2010:
The 22 lawyers in the legal aid programme implemented in partnership with the Bar Association of Cambodia provide a free legal service to the most vulnerable people (ranging from straightforward legal advice to legal representation in court).

1,143 cases were handled between May and December 2010.

Regular meetings are held with lawyers in the programme, presidents of courts, magistrates, registrars and local authorities, to ensure that the programme runs smoothly.

First-hand account

“I am very pleased to be working with the Avocats Sans Frontières France association, as its legal aid programme enables me to work as a lawyer in my home province of Mondolkiri, where there is nobody to defend the very underprivileged. As far as I am concerned, legal aid is vital because the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all citizens are equal before the law, and that has to apply to all Cambodians. It is vital that the right to a defence, freedom of expression and all the other freedoms are guaranteed for all. Furthermore, this project enables me to increase my knowledge about the various codes in force and so defend my clients better.”

Comments from an interview with Maître KOY Veasna, lawyer in the Avocats Sans Frontières France legal aid programme.
Strengthening the capabilities of lawyers in the legal programme:

Lawyers in the programme benefit from an average of three training sessions per year. These training sessions strengthen their skills concerning criminal procedure in particular.

A new Code of Criminal Procedure has come into force and a new Criminal Code is being prepared. Lawyers are not prepared for using these new texts. They still need to integrate the international texts ratified by Cambodia into their work.

Consequently, today there is a genuine need for them to integrate and master the criminal procedures to be applied (most of the cases handled by the lawyers in the programme are criminal cases).

Two training sessions were carried out in the first year of the project.

Training course from 5 to 9 July 2010 on “running a law office in accordance with rules of professional conduct” in Sihanoukville:

This training course was run by two trainers from ASF France, with the help of four Cambodian co-trainers. This training course was attended by the 22 lawyers in the legal aid programme and three lawyers representing the Bar Association of Cambodia.

Training course from 19 to 22 October 2010 on “Criminal Procedure” in Siem Reap:

This training course was run by two trainers from ASF France, with the help of four Cambodian co-trainers. This training course was attended by the 22 lawyers in the legal aid programme and three lawyers representing the Bar Association of Cambodia.
Training for co-trainers
Each training session is preceded by “training for trainers” (four Cambodian legal experts) about teaching methods for training. After 2 days of work sessions, the Cambodian co-trainers work alongside ASF France trainers on the 4-day training session aimed at pupil lawyers.
This method reinforces the benefit of the first two days of training by putting the methods used into practice immediately.

Mrs SOK Kosol is 75 years old. She used to sell traditional cakes in the street, but has had to stop because of her health. Her only son, who is the only family member who supports her, has been arrested for using and supplying drugs. Maître Sun Eam, a lawyer in the legal aid programme from Kratie, is helping her to follow her son’s case and will defend him at the trial due to take place in a few months’ time. Mrs SOK Kosol has no income and the support of her son is vital. The programme lawyer is her only hope of seeing her son defended properly so that his sentence is as lenient as possible.

First-hand account from an interview with Mrs SOK Kosol from Kratie.

Outlook
► A training session on “The Criminal Code”
► A training session on “The international conventions ratified by Cambodia, international legal instruments, international courts”
► A symposium open to judicial actors (judges, public prosecutors, registrars, criminal police, etc.)

Project team members

Project managers: Martine JACQUIN, lawyer and François ROGER, former magistrate
Teaching co-ordinator: Marie José CANTIER
ASF France member lawyers involved in this project:
François ROGER, Nicole DUMAS, Christine MARTINEAU, Ghislaine SEZE, Isabelle DURAND, Nathalie MULLER, Fabienne TRUSSES NAPROUS, Marie Dominique FLOUZAT AUBA, Alix PHIQUEPAL D’ARUSMONT, Désirée ZOGO, Françoise FRAIGNEAU, Evelyne BOILEAU BRANDOMIR, Françoise GAUTRY, Victorine PIMBO, Philippe CANONNE, Martine JACQUIN, Marie Paule PONDY, Anne DELAHAIE, Marianne LAGRUE, Henry NAYRAL DE PUYBUSQUE, Laure DESFORGES, Daniel LOSQ, Elisabeth RABESANDRATANA, Ferdinand DJAMMEN NZEPA, Jeanne Gisette MARE
ASF France team in Phnom Penh
LAY Sinek, TOUCH Pisethsathya, HENG Sengdy, co-ordinators

Partners

Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Co-financed by: French Development Agency, French Embassy in Cambodia, Prime Minister’s office
Project 3

Training for Cambodian lawyers and magistrates on human rights and a fair trial 2005 – 2012

An initiative to strengthen the capabilities of Cambodian judicial actors, particularly lawyers and magistrates, is being implemented up until 2012 in association with the Professional Training Centre for Lawyers (PTCL) and the Royal School of Magistrature.

Consequently, three training sessions were held in 2010.

First session from 15 to 19 March 2010

Theme: “The use in national law of international legal instruments protecting human rights ratified by Cambodia”.

The 5-day training course was run by three trainers from ASF France, together with two Cambodian co-trainers.

In the framework of this training course, the pupil lawyers attended a half-day hearing in a Cambodian court.

Part of the training course focused on working on relations between magistrates and lawyers, led by a former magistrate at the French Court of Cassation who is a member of ASF France.

Second session from 6 to 11 December 2010

Theme: “Role of the Lawyer”

44 pupil lawyers from the new 2010-2011 class took part in the training course.

Each trainer taught a group of pupils, assisted by two Cambodian co-trainers.

Third session from 13 to 17 December 2010

Theme: “Criminal Procedure”

The 44 pupil lawyers from the new 2010-2011 class took part in the training course.
Training Cambodian co-trainers in teaching methods:

A group of Cambodian legal experts and lawyers followed training courses to acquire tools and teaching methods for training. The co-trainers then worked alongside trainers from ASF France on the three training courses for pupil lawyers. Two further co-trainers were involved in finalising and translating the teaching aids.

This project plans to create a group of people to develop and teach training courses independently so that the Bar Association of Cambodia and the Professional Training Centre for Lawyers have people available who are already trained and prepared to develop training courses within their institutions, particularly on the themes tackled in the framework of this project.

Outlook

Three training sessions are planned for 2011:

In 2011, the project will also benefit the new class of pupils from the Royal School of Magistrature.

- A training course aimed at pupil lawyers on "International legal instruments, international courts and international conventions"
- A training course aimed at pupil magistrates on "The code of criminal procedure and the criminal code"
- A training course aimed at pupil magistrates on "International legal instruments, international courts and international conventions"

Project team members

Project managers: Martine JACQUIN / Teaching co-ordinator: Marie José CANTIER

Teaching supervisor: Françoise GAUTRY

ASF France member lawyers involved in this project:

Evelyne BOILEAU BRANDOMIR, Françoise FRAIGNEAU, Marie Paule PONDY, Philippe CANONNE, Marianne LAGRUE, Henry NAYRAL DE PUYBUSQUE, Annie DELAHAIE, Daniel LOSQ, Elisabeth RABESANDRATANA, Laure DESFORGES, Jeanne Gisette MARE, François ROGER, Ferdinand DJAMMEN NZEPA, Christine MARTINEAU, Ghislaine SEZE, Nicole DUMAS, Nathalie MULLER, Fabienne TRUSSES NAPROUS, Isabelle DURAND, Alix PHIQUEPAL D’ARUSMONT, Désirée ZOGO, Marie Dominique FLOUZAT AUBA, Victorine PIMBO

ASF France team in Phnom Penh: LAY Sinek, TOUCH Pisethsathya, HENG Sengdy, co-ordinators

Partners

Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Royal Academy of Legal Professions, encompassing the Professional Training Centre for Lawyers, and the Royal School of Magistratur

Co-financed by: French Embassy in Cambodia, Midi-Pyrénées Regional Council
In 2007, the Government embarked on a massive judicial reform in Laos with the support of the UNDP. In this context, the Bar Association of Laos, a relatively new institution set up in 1996, wanted to improve the quality of training of lawyers and its ability to provide legal aid services to the poorest people.

Project

Strengthening of the legal profession in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic

January 2010 – January 2013

This project plans to carry out two training sessions each year aimed at pupil lawyers and interested practising lawyers from the Bar Association of Laos. These training sessions relate to “The Role of the Lawyer” and “International legal Instruments for Human Rights Protection”. They form part of the initial training for lawyers with the Bar Association of Laos.

Objectives:

► To promote fair justice and restore the rule of law in Laos
► To strengthen the legal profession in Laos
► To improve the capabilities of lawyers in Laos to deliver high quality legal services to vulnerable people

Formalisation of the partnership between the Bar Association of Laos and ASF France

On 8 April 2010, a partnership agreement was signed between the Bar Association of Laos and ASF France in the presence of KET Kiettisack, Deputy Minister for Justice, Marianne POUGET, senior adviser to the French Ambassador, the Executive Committee and members of the Bar Association of Laos, the project’s financial partners (the Agence Française de Développement and the European Commission Delegation), as well as French co-operation (SCAC) representatives.

Ounheuane Kenpaseuth, Chairman of the Laos Bar, and Fabienne Trusses Naprous, Chair of the Tarbes Bar, project joint manager and teaching supervisor.

Training pupil lawyers from the Bar Association of Laos

1st training session on “The Role of the Lawyer” from 6 to 10 September 2010 in Vientiane

It was taught by the team of trainers from ASF France made up of Fabienne Trusses Naprous, Former Chair of the Tarbes Bar, Evelyne Boileau Brandomir of the Clermont Ferrand Bar Association and Marianne Lagrue of the Paris Bar Association. They were assisted by 4 experienced Laotian co-trainers.

23 pupil lawyers and 5 practising lawyers took part.
2nd training session on “International Conventions” from 11 to 15 October 2010 in Vientiane.

It was taught by the team of trainers from ASF France, made up of Fabienne Trusses Naprous, Former Chair of the Tarbes Bar, Marie Dominique Flouzat Auba of the Paris Bar Association, and Henri Nayral de Puybusque of the Toulouse Bar Association. They were assisted by 4 Laotian co-trainers.

Training for co-trainers:
Each training session was preceded by training for trainers. After 2 days of work sessions, the Laotian co-trainers worked alongside the trainers from ASF France on the 5-day training course for pupil lawyers. This method reinforced the benefit of the first two days of training by putting the methods used into practice immediately, and enhanced the training given to the pupil lawyers through the input of the Laotian co-trainers’ own experience. They also ensured that the trainees had a good understanding of the legal concepts covered through the excellent translation they provided.

Outlook

- Two new training courses will be carried out in 2011 with the new class of pupil lawyers on the following themes:
  - “The role of the lawyer”
  - “International legal instruments relating to human rights”

Members

Project managers: Martine JACQUIN, Fabienne TRUSSES NAPROUS (Teaching supervisor)
Teaching co-ordinator: Marie José CANTIER HERRMAN
ASF France member lawyers involved in this project:
Evelyne BOILEAU BRANDOMIR, Philippe CANONNE, Annie DELAHAIE, Laure DESFORGES, Ferdinand DJAMMEN NZEPA, Nicole DUMAS, Françoise FRAIGNEAU, Victorine PIMBO, Françoise GAUTRY, Marie Paule PONDY, Marianne LAGRUE, Henry NAYRAL DE PUYBUSQUE, Daniel LOSQ, Elisabeth RABESANDRATANA, Jeanne Gisette MARE, François ROGER, Christine MARTINEAU, Ghislaine SEZE, Isabelle DURAND, Nathalie MULLER, Désirée ZOGO, Marie Dominique FLOUZAT AUBA, Alix PHIQUEPAL D’ARUSMONT
ASF France team in Vientiane: Somchine PHANNARATH, Maître Phivath VORACHAK

Partners

Bar Association of Laos
Co-financed by: European Commission, Agence Française de Développement
The International Observatory for Lawyers was set up in October 2008 and started operations in April 2009. This project, which was the initiative of Avocats Sans Frontières France, is carried out jointly by ASF France, the French National Bar Council, the Paris Law Society, the Consejo General de la Aboigacía española and the Consiglio Nazionale Forense.

The Observatory’s aim is to identify worldwide cases of lawyers being subjected to threats, pressure, torture or any other serious attack, in order to provide them with legal, moral and/or material assistance.

In 2010, it implemented all of the activities which come under its mandate, so establishing itself as an instrument for protecting lawyers in danger. Missions to defend, protect and assist lawyers under threat were carried out all around the world.

Missions

Vietnam

LE CONG DINH is an eminent Vietnamese lawyer under threat because of his work to promote human rights and defend his colleagues. Following his arrest, the Observatory took action to help him by organising a first mission to the country in November 2009, then in May 2010 for his appeal proceedings. As is the case with all international observers, the Observatory was not able to attend the hearing, but it has been able to gain media coverage for the plight of the lawyer, the sentencing of whom to five years’ imprisonment and three years’ house arrest was upheld on appeal according to the terms of a plainly perverse trial.

The Observatory is keeping up its efforts to help LE CONG DINH and other Vietnamese lawyers under threat because of their work and their commitment to upholding human rights.

Algeria

DRIFA OULD LAHOUCINE, an Algerian lawyer accused of “trafficking in human beings”, referred the matter to the Observatory in July 2010. As part of the case, the Observatory sent a mission to Algeria to provide the lawyer with the support of the profession and prepare her defence. The Observatory has contacted the Algerian authorities about this case on several occasions. The case of DRIFA OULD LAHOUCINE will be heard shortly in the criminal court.

China

The case of twenty Chinese lawyers deprived of their licences to practise was referred to the Observatory. A mission went to Beijing in March 2010 to provide these lawyers with the support of the profession and understand the specific mechanism for licences to practise in China.

The Observatory is monitoring closely the cases of TANG JITIAN and LIU WEI, who were subsequently dismissed. It is helping to gain extensive international media coverage for the plight of the Chinese lawyers.
Democratic Republic of Congo

The case of FIRMIN YANGAMBI, a Congolese lawyer sentenced to death in March 2010 by the Supreme Military Court of Kinshasa Gombe, was referred to the Observatory. In the framework of this case, a support mission was organised the very next month. Since then, the Observatory has appointed Me Claude Joël PAKA, Chairman of the Pointe-Noire Bar, to help defend Firmin Yangambi. He travels to Kinshasa regularly. The verdict is expected soon.

First-hand account

“[…] The systematic support provided to me by the International Observatory for Lawyers through the mission led by Me Richard Sédillot, which was the first from the international community of lawyers, has totally changed both my physical and psychological condition in prison and the pace of the investigation of my case in the court of appeal.

In practical terms, by providing me with food, which, incidentally, I share with my fellow prisoners who have nothing to eat in a prison where the State does not feed prisoners, and medicines and financial resources for my healthcare needs, the IOL is saving me from death in physical terms given the subhuman detention conditions in my prison.

The telephone and e-mail contact with members of the Observatory, the various letters sent to the Congolese authorities and other pleas made in favour of my case in all arenas, and the Observatory’s missions on its own or together with other organisations, not only provide me with considerable moral and psychological support, but have also made a significant contribution to my case being heard differently, at least in terms of form, by the appeal court, without prejudging its decision on the substance of the case.

Today, by granting direct aid to my family for their basic needs, and particularly my children’s schooling costs, the Observatory is supporting me beyond my expectations!

Through this letter, I would like to convey my utmost gratitude to the International Observatory for Lawyers and, through it, to the entire international community of lawyers which is effectively supporting me in the terrible situation in which I am placed by this trial, which constitutes a direct threat to my own life and to that of my family.

In reality, I have no words to express my gratitude at the extent of the support which the Observatory has provided to a humble person such as me.

THANK YOU to all of you.
Firmin.”

Georgia

The Chairman of the Bar Association of Georgia contacted European professional societies and the Observatory about the problems experienced by Georgian lawyers in the course of their work. In November 2010, a delegation from the Observatory travelled to Georgia to look into the problems encountered by lawyers in this country, and provide individual lawyers under threat with the support of the Observatory.

In the context of the case of MARIANA IVELASHVILI, a Georgian lawyer met over there, who was sentenced in 2008, the Observatory has petitioned for a reprieve for her and has written to the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers. The Observatory is monitoring this case extremely closely.

The Observatory’s work, and particularly its on-the-ground defence and protection missions, has attracted the attention of numerous institutions and organisations, which are becoming more involved in helping lawyers under threat by the day.
JORGE MOLANO, a Colombian lawyer representing complainants in cases against senior officers in the Colombian army, contacted the Observatory because of the pressure and intimidation he was suffering. In this context, a delegation travelled out in October for a particularly sensitive hearing. Consequently, the Observatory was able to raise awareness among diplomatic representations and the public about Jorge Molano’s situation by involving the national media.

The delegation was also able to assess the general climate, where lawyers working to protect human rights are stigmatised. The Observatory is continuing to monitor closely the situation of JORGE MOLANO and his colleague, GERMAN ROMERO, a lawyer under threat who was met during the mission.

Outlook

The European Commission’s financial support for the International Observatory for Lawyers is ending on 30 June 2011. The objective is to continue this mechanism for protecting lawyers in danger around the world.
Members

Members of the Observatory come from Avocats Sans Frontières France, the French National Bar Council, Paris Law Society, the Consejo General de la Abogacía española and the Consiglio Nazionale Forense.

Avocats Sans Frontières France members involved in the Observatory’s missions in 2010:
Nathalie Muller-Sarallier (Nanterre Bar Association), Philippe Moriceau (Former Chairman of the Bayonne Bar), Charlotte Lévi (Montauban Bar Association), Marianne Lagrue (Paris Bar Association), Hélène Diribarne (former lawyer at the Pau Bar), Benoit Rousseau (Nantes Bar Association), Laure Desforges (Epinal Bar Association) and Emmanuel Molina (Marseille Bar Association).

Partners

Paris Law Society, French National Bar Council, Consejo General de la Abogacía española, Consiglio Nazionale Forense

Financial support:

EuropeAid/126412/C/ACT/Multi
Lawyers for Lawyers
Support for Democracy and Human Rights initiatives in the field of human rights defenders
Avocats Sans Frontières came out of the International Conference of Bar Associations with a Shared Legal Tradition (CIB), and particularly out of a resolution taken during the conference held in Yaoundé (Cameroon) in December 1991, through the impetus of Chairman of the Bar Mario Stasi (Paris Bar Association) and Chairman of the Bar Titinga Pacéré (Burkina Faso Bar Association). The first association was set up in Belgium in 1992.

The first large-scale operation carried out by Avocats Sans Frontières was “Justice for all in Rwanda”. This consisted of arranging for foreign lawyers to defend defendants and victims of the genocide in the Rwandan courts. This founding experience for the ASF movement was also a major first in the history of the justice system, and was unanimously heralded a success.

Avocats Sans Frontières started to grow from 1998 onwards, with the establishment of national associations in Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Mali, Mauritania, Sweden, DRC and Switzerland. Later, other national associations were set up in Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Guinea Conakry, Peru, Togo and Congo Brazzaville.

The various national components of the network have set an example more or less everywhere with the quality and quantity of initiatives carried out in the field of law and justice.

The proposed project is based on the finding that it is vital today, given the level of activities and reputation of Avocats Sans Frontières, to co-ordinate the activities of its members, strengthen the identity of the Network and develop it in new countries.

The numerous requests received by Avocats Sans Frontières mean that it needs to raise its international presence.

Therefore, the main objectives of this development and strengthening project are to share tools and experiences to better develop ASF associations, co-ordinate interventions, develop joint activities and raise the network’s presence internationally and in the field of development co-operation in order to provide a better service to the most vulnerable.

“The foundations of the work of the Avocats Sans Frontières Network are to protect and implement universal values of human rights, particularly the right to be presumed innocent, everyone’s right to a fair trial and to be defended by a free and independent adviser, and the right of victims to have their rights recognised.”

Extract from the charter of ethics of the ASF Network
The Avocats Sans Frontières Network formally signed and adopted its Charter of Ethics on 15 November 2010 at its 3rd plenary meeting in Douala and Yaoundé in Cameroon.

In particular, this Charter sets out the ethical principles of the ASF Network:

- **Strengthening** and development of the Avocats Sans Frontières movement
- **Co-operation** and solidarity between members
- **Defending the universal values of human rights** for the most vulnerable

Extracts from the Charter of Ethics of the Avocats Sans Frontières network


Meeting today, 15 November 2010, in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon:

[…]

In view of the aspirations of people around the world to the universal values of freedom, access to fair justice and the right at any time and in any place to have at their disposal a free and independent counsel:

[…]

Reaffirming their commitment to the recognition and respect of the role of lawyers, in accordance with the principles relating to the role of bar associations adopted by the United Nations Assembly at the Havana Conference on 7 September 1990, which lay down their freedom, independence, ethical obligations, guarantees of safety and resources necessary to practise their profession:

Have decided to set up a co-operative network for sharing, co-operating and acting to serve vulnerable groups and individuals, and hereby declare the charter thereof, which will govern their relations and actions.”

Sharing

The ASF Network organises events which provide an opportunity to reflect upon major themes related to justice and co-operation.

In May 2010, the international conference held in Rome focused on “The ethics of international solidarity in relation to justice and human rights.”
Emergency missions

2010 was a busy year for the Avocats Sans Frontières Network, which was involved in several emergency missions to defend lawyers, human rights defenders and citizens in Cameroon, Iran, Mauritania, Morocco, Democratic Republic of Congo and Togo.

Morocco

Mohamed Attaoui – Journalist for the Arabic language newspaper Al-Monataf

In February 2010, Mohamed Attaoui, a correspondent for the Arabic language newspaper Al-Monataf, and also chairman of the “Future for Cedar and Mouflon” association, published an article on 16 February 2010 denouncing cedar trafficking in the region of Midelt, involving local civil servants.

Arrested on 8 March, the journalist was sentenced on 22 March 2010 to two years’ immediate imprisonment by the Midelt court, officially for having extorted the sum of 1,000 dirhams from the Bouadine Forestry manager who had provided him with information about this trafficking.

The Chairman of the Bar of Mauritania, Me Ahmed Salem Ould Bouhoubeyni, a member of ASF Mauritania, was appointed on behalf of the ASF Network to defend the journalist alongside his Moroccan lawyers, and has been involved in the various hearings. The pleadings are scheduled to take place in 2011.

Iran

Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani

The ASF Network is in direct contact with the Iranian lawyers of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, the woman sentenced to death by stoning for adultery.

In September 2010, the ASF Network petitioned the Iranian authorities for mercy, requesting that the death sentence not be carried out.

Togo

“Tribune d’Afrique” newspaper

In May 2010, for having published an article on drug trafficking mentioning the involvement of a member of the President’s family, Mey Gnassingbé, the half-brother of the Head of State and official representative to the Togolese presidency, the “Tribune d’Afrique” newspaper was suspended on 25 August 2010 and ordered to pay a fine of 6 million CFA Francs.

The Avocats Sans Frontières Network, to which the matter was referred by the Reporters Without Borders association, took action and appealed against this decision. Me Afangbedji, a ASF Togo lawyer, has now been appointed to this case, alongside other colleagues, to call for the Togolese courts to lift the ban on the newspaper.

Since it was set up, the ASF Network has carried out 6 emergency defence missions worldwide
Mauritania

Anti-slavery activists - IRA

The Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement in Mauritania (IRA) is a group of Mauritanian activists whose aim it is to act against slavery, which has been a criminal offence in Mauritania since the law of 8 August 2007. In December 2010, as a result of having reported two alleged cases of two young girls kept as slaves, seven anti-slavery activists from the IRA-Mauritania association were arrested. The general secretary of the IRA, Boubacar Ould Mohammed, stated that “there are no legal measures enabling slaves to assert their rights”. These activists were defended on appeal by the ASF Network. They were eventually pardoned.

Me Abdalhi Ould Tajddine and Me Mohamed Bilal Ould Dick, ASF Mauritania member lawyers, were appointed on behalf of the ASF Network alongside other colleagues. “When a person reports a case of slavery, the authorities must go and see what is happening. They were willing at the start and then, suddenly, the case turned on its head and the person who reported the crime ended up in prison [...] This is not the time for stories and lies. This is the time to tell the truth and be transparent,” commented Me Mohamed Bilal Ould Dick.

Biram ould Dah ould Abeid (Chairman of the IRA)

“Having visited the Avocats Sans Frontières stand at the World Forum on Human Rights held in Nantes in June-July 2010, I realised how important this institution is for human rights activists in countries such as Mauritania, where they may be in danger.

Afterwards, I contacted the ASF Network by e-mail to ask for legal protection for members of the IRA, and particularly its chairman, who were clearly under threat. This contact enabled me to follow up with the ASF Network when, on Monday 13 December 2010, members of the IRA, including its chairman, were arrested while trying to defend two young girls kept as slaves in Nouakchott.

The support of the ASF Network came quickly, and the organisation immediately appointed two lawyers living in Mauritania to join the group of lawyers formed to defend the anti-slavery activists, who originally numbered around ten. [...] In short, our partnership with the ASF Network produced results because, on the one hand, the lawyers helped to defend the case in court and, on the other hand, the involvement of the ASF Network added to the pressure which the Mauritanian authorities were under to release the human rights activists.”

Madina ATHIE, Chairman of Citoyennes & Citoyens Debout [citizens take a stand], Member of the IRA committee
Cameroon

Me Abessolo Etienne and Me Lydienne Eyom

Me Abessolo and Me Eyom were arrested, charged and imprisoned because of the work they do. The ASF Network is supporting these lawyers alongside their Cameroonian lawyers.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Floribert Chebeya case

On 2 June 2010, Floribert Chebeya, founding President of the Congolese NGO La Voix des Sans Voix (VSV) [a voice for those without a voice], was found dead in his car, with his hands tied behind his back, on a road on the outskirts of Kinshasa. His driver, Fidèle BANZANA, who had driven him to the meeting point, is still reported missing. On 12 November 2010, the CHEBEYA trial started before a military court in Makala Prison (Kinshasa).

On behalf of the Network, Me François Cantier joined the group of Congolese lawyers of the victims bringing civil actions. These include the families of Floribert .. and .. and the “La Voix des Sans Voix” association. The reason for this involvement is related to the symbolic nature of the victims and those responsible for their disappearance, namely the police, because acting against impunity is a prerequisite in the fight for effective human rights.

First-hand account

“[…] I am in close contact with the “La Voix des sans Voix” association and its new leaders. They are still just as determined to act to defend human rights and get to the bottom of the assassination of two of their members. They are clearly in great danger and the fact that we are openly standing shoulder to shoulder with them is likely to reassure and, perhaps, protect them.”

Me François Cantier, President of ASF France, one of the lawyers in the group defending the complainants in the Chebeya trial.
Outlook

2011 is set to be just as busy in terms of initiatives for the Avocats Sans Frontières Network, which can rely on the support of the Clifford Chance Foundation.

Emergency activities will continue to defend lawyers and other human rights defenders around the world.

Co-operation and strengthening the network internally will continue. As a result, in-house training sessions are planned so that members of the various ASF associations can share tools and methods.

'The globalisation of justice’ will be the theme of the next international conference held by the ASF Network in April 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. This will also be an opportunity to launch the website officially:

www.asf-network.org

The Avocats Sans Frontières Network will also be involved on the ground, along with other international solidarity actors, in advocacy and action to strengthen the rule of law and fair justice. This will be the case, in particular, at the World Social Forum in Dakar in February 2011, and at the conferences of the International Union of Lawyers (IUL) and the International Conference of Bar Associations.

Joint Projects

In 2011, one of the effects of the strengthening and development of the Avocats Sans Frontières Network will be a partnership between several ASF associations carrying out joint initiatives. Several projects and initiatives are already planned thanks to this co-operation between ASF associations:

• between ASF Switzerland and ASF Cameroon concerning defending people who are stigmatised because of their sexual orientation – in partnership with the Cameroonian association ADHEFO
• between ASF Cameroon and ASF France concerning respect for minimum rights for prisoners (see page 40)

‘The meeting of the network in Cameroon in November 2010 enabled the partnership contract to be finalised between ASF Cameroon, ASF Switzerland and ADHEFO, a Cameroonian association headed by Me Alice NKOM.

This trip enabled ASF Switzerland to obtain the unconditional support of the Swiss Ambassador to Cameroon, Mr Etienne THEVOZ.

This help is vital given the homophobic climate which prevails in Cameroon. ASF Switzerland will go to Cameroon in May 2011 and not only support the cause of homosexuals imprisoned, but also apply pressure to ensure that Me Alice NKOM is no longer threatened with death because of her work.”

Me Saskia Ditischeim, Chair of ASF Switzerland.

Members

Since the formal adoption of the Avocats Sans Frontières Network Charter in November 2010 in Yaoundé (Cameroon), the network has received several calls for new ASF associations and its ranks are continuing to grow.

Consequently, new ASF associations have been welcomed in Colombia, Congo, Peru, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Togo.

At the time of this report going to print, the ASF Network comprises ASF Brazil, ASF Cameroon, ASF Colombia, ASF Congo, ASF France, ASF Guinea, ASF Italy, ASF Mali, ASF Mauritania, ASF Netherlands, ASF Peru, ASF Democratic Republic of Congo, ASF Senegal, ASF Sweden, ASF Switzerland and ASF Togo.
**Curriculum**

There are two types of training courses

First type: training courses which form an integral part of the programmes developed by ASF France in various countries, are aimed at local law and justice system practitioners and are put together based on the twin objective of strengthening the capabilities of local actors and empowering them.

Second type: training courses aimed at practitioners involved in ASF France missions. All ASF France participants prepare for their intervention by following a training curriculum which provides a common foundation in the ASF France intervention methodology and strengthens the effectiveness of the initiatives.

The training curriculum includes four broad themes

1/ Training course for trainers

ASF France participants are called on to take part in training missions, usually outside of their country.

The training course for trainers provides them with a methodological tool and specific expertise in teaching adults. It also prepares them for intervening in different contexts through an introduction to intercultural “negotiation”. In the association’s intervention contexts, a small group of local actors is generally trained to become trainers in pursuit of the objective of empowering local practitioners.

Complete training for trainers comprises two levels:

**Foundation:** this level makes it possible to acquire the essentials of training and differentiate it from exercises such as teaching, lecturing, etc.

**Enhancement:** this develops the capability to design a training course, draw up the specifications of a training course and implement it.
2/ Training in the use of tools available to the lawyer in the international arena

The distinctive characteristic of the international texts which protect human rights is that they do not simply create mutual obligations between States in the way that traditional international treaties do. Instead, they create real obligations for the State in respect of individuals, who are able to claim them before national and international bodies.

The training course on this theme trains practitioners of the law and justice system to identify these texts, know their content and use them appropriately before all the relevant national and international bodies.

This training course also enables ASF France to promote the underlying human rights principles of its work. A complementary module, called “the right to a fair trial”, is linked to this main training course.

3/ Training course on regional human rights protection systems:

African and European system

A first module on the African regional human rights protection system was set up in 2009. The success of this session led to the concept being widened to include comparative training between the various regional systems. This training course currently relates to the African and European systems. The Inter-American system will soon be added to this.

The aim of this training course is to make parallels between the regional systems, i.e. identify and use the regional human rights protection mechanisms and link regional mechanisms with universal mechanisms.

2010 Results:

108 people trained in 2010, with a total of 182 hours of training to natives of Chad, France, Cameroon, Guinea, Gabon, Switzerland, Brazil, Tanzania, Mauritania, Spain, Italy and Senegal.

Results:

Association members are prepared for their intervention on the ground and for teamwork on the projects.

The capabilities of practitioners from outside the association are strengthened in the field of human rights.

Local actors and partners of ASF France initiatives are strengthened and empowered.

ASF France also organises training courses for lawyers at bar associations and law schools. In fact, sessions have taken place on International Criminal Defence at the law schools of the Bar Associations of Lyon, Nantes, Brive, etc..
4/ Training course in defence before international criminal courts

Through several of its members, Avocats Sans Frontières France has acquired relevant knowledge and know-how in the field of international criminal courts. The regular intervention of the association’s lawyer members before these bodies very early on, has enabled expertise to be developed concerning the procedures in force in these courts.

The training course on international criminal courts enables this expertise to be shared with other practitioners wishing to intervene in these courts, or who have varying degrees of interest in them. In particular, it enables lawyers to adapt to the specific procedures of international criminal tribunals, particularly the International Criminal Court, which are often considerably different from what they have experienced in national law.

This training course will enable trainees to understand the background of the international criminal justice system, grasp the specifics and workings of international criminal tribunals, identify and recognise the constituent elements of crimes and master the procedure in the international criminal courts.

First-hand account

“[…] the training courses taken with Avocats Sans Frontières France are courses which are perfectly tailored to the requirements of international missions in a complex legal and political context. The courses are taught by experienced professionals capable of transmitting, evaluating and guiding, with an effective decision-making process taking into account each person’s skills as part of a remarkable progression and synergy strategy.”

Me Vincent Ricouleau, lawyer at the Saint Nazaire Bar

Avocats Sans Frontières France has developed genuine educational engineering suited to training adults and to group teaching methods. Designed as a practical training course, it uses specific, dynamic and interactive teaching methods which enable trainees to optimise the acquisition of knowledge and know-how relevant to their own work.

The trainers are always practitioners with extensive and considerable experience who teach other practitioners. They are either professional trainers or legal practitioners who have taken the training course for trainers and are universally recognised in their field of practice.

Outlook

Strengthening the capabilities of staff

Training is the preferred development instrument of Avocats Sans Frontières France. This is the reason why the association is keen to train volunteers, both in legal and methodological aspects. This preparation is the prerequisite for any involvement in the association’s initiatives.

The association is also expanding its staff training. Consequently, employees are invited to take part in the training courses run by the association, but also to take professional training courses run by other institutes, according to each person’s individual requirements.
The table of courses shown here does not include the training courses run in the specific framework of the international solidarity missions of ASF France. These specific initiatives are mentioned in this report in the framework of the relevant programmes.

Besides these 9 training sessions already scheduled, Avocats Sans Frontières France wants to continue developing off-site training courses in 2011 at various bar associations, as well as awareness-raising sessions at bar associations and training schools for young lawyers.

The form came as a discovery to me, both in terms of the way of working and in terms of the effectiveness of the method used. I was particularly struck by the fact that questions were asked at the start of the training course about the subject that had not yet been covered, group work etc.

The training course for trainers finally convinced me about the effectiveness of the method, which I have subsequently been able to put into practice.”

Evelyne Boileau-Brandomir, lawyer at the Clermont-Ferrand Bar.
**Cameroon**

*Dignity in detention: Promoting respect for minimum legal rights for people held in Cameroonian prisons – DIDE*

Dec 2010 – Dec 2013

**Objectives**

- To help strengthen the rule of law and the judicial system in Cameroon
- To help improve knowledge of and respect for human rights
- To increase knowledge and respect for the rules and minimum guarantees for people held in Cameroonian prisons

**Activities**

- To organise training sessions for various prison actors (e.g. prison staff, criminal police officers, magistrates, lawyers and registrars)
- To organise information and awareness-raising initiatives for prisoners about their rights and guarantees
- To provide prisoners with legal aid by putting in place hearings and judicial advisors

**Project team members**

For ASF France: Charlotte Lévi (project leader), Julie Cateau (Africa co-ordinator), Emmanuelle Cerf, Ferdinand Djamen Nzepa, Nicole Dumas, Gérard Dupuy, Françoise Fraignaux, Christine Martineau, Marianne Lagrue, Vincent Ricoulot, Anne Vidal

In Cameroon: Barnabé Nekui (President of ASF Cameroon), Honoré Yana (general secretary of ASF Cameroon), Anne Marie Njocke, Esai Bisseck, Nicole Essoh, Issofa Para, Bekima Eboa, Odette Weguela, Boniface Mbounou, Victorine Pimbo, Desiree Zogo, Madeleine Nsali Mbembi, Charlotte Nyeck, Jacques Mbuy, Jean-Guy Epée Dikourme, Thomas Nzeugang, etc.

**Partners**

Avocats sans Frontières Cameroon, Bar Association of Cameroon  
Financial Support: European Union
Nigeria

Nigeria is one of the largest countries in Africa where the death penalty is still used and is legally permitted. However, a moratorium was imposed in 2004 following the recommendation of a working group on the death penalty set up by former President Obasanjo. This moratorium was supposed to be the first step in the abolition of the death penalty. However, three executions took place in 2007 in the State of Kaduna. Furthermore, the number of prisoners on death row is continuing to rise. In general terms, most of society is very poorly informed about the subject of the death penalty. In addition, this sentence is continuing to be handed down, and prisoners are sent to death row without any legal guarantee.

Strengthening the role of lawyers in acting against the death penalty (Saving lives: SALI)

Jan 2011 – Dec 2013

**Objective**

To reduce the number of people incurring the death penalty, sentenced to death during a trial or definitively sentenced to the death penalty, though the involvement of civil society, judicial and political actors and especially lawyers, with the aim of improving the defence of the prisoners and the conditions in which they are held.

**Activities:**

► To organise awareness-raising activities and workshops on the subject of the death penalty, fair trials and prison conditions, aimed at civil society organisations, political and judicial actors, police officers and prison staff.

► To organise training courses to improve the capabilities of 8 lawyers working in turn on the subject of the death penalty, and so enable them to provide prisoners sentenced to death with legal aid.

To provide free legal aid to prisoners incurring the death penalty.

► To organise communication and plea campaigns about the death penalty.

**Project team members**

Ivan Paneff (project leader), Jean-Sébastien Mariez (case follow-up adviser), Cécile Ostier (training course adviser), Pierre-Frédéric Degon (awareness-raising adviser), Zolika Bouabdallah, Sabah Boumesla, Julien Brun, Mechtilde Carlier, Emilie Devaucresson, Laurent Gaudon, Loïc Guérin, Catherine Mabille, Valia Morgenbesser, Lionel Njeukam, Charlotte Perdrix, Victorine Pimbo, Michèle Stern, Honoré Yana, Désiré Zogo

**Local office in Abuja:**

Hélène Caby (head of mission), Obiora Diru (logistician). The rest of the team is due to be recruited in March 2011 (a project manager, a co-ordinating lawyer and a communication officer)

**Partners**

Legal Aid Council of Nigeria, Nigerian Bar Association, Constitutional Rights Project

Financial Support: European Union
Events in 2010

- Taking part in the International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival – giving lectures about the International Criminal Court (1)
- Running a stand at the Solidarity Work Training Day (2)
- Taking part in the Toulouse International Fair – outlining the association’s activities (3-4)
- Organising the Human Rights Festival in Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne – concerts, lectures, etc. (5-6-7-8-9)
- Running a stand and giving lectures at the Human Rights Forum in Nantes (10)
- Giving lectures in The Hague on Procedure before International Criminal Tribunals (11)
- Giving lectures on International Criminal Justice at French bar associations (Paris, Toulouse, etc.)
- Taking part in the International Senior Lawyers Project Europe (12)
- Association honoured at the Marseille Juris’cup (13)
- Running a workshop at the LEKposia Fair in Paris (14)
- Taking part in the celebrations to mark the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Toulouse (15)
- Gala evening in support of the work of ASF France (16)
- Presentation of the Tout Feu Tout Femme trophy
- Taking part in the European Pro Bono Forum in Paris (17)
- Etc.
International Senior Lawyers Project
Serving the World Community

JURIS’CUP 2010
16 - 19 Sept

1er rendez-vous interprofessionnel
LEXPOSIA 2010
Salon Européen du Droit
de l’Audit et du Conseil
Un panorama de conférences

Soirée de gala ASF France octobre 2010

2010 EUROPEAN PRO BONO FORUM
18-19 November
www.avocatssansfrontieres-france.org

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