



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES
France



Where the defence no longer has a voice.

Annual Report

2004

35 rue Ozenne, 31000 Toulouse, France – E-mail. info@asf-france.org

Tel. +33 5 34 31 17 83 – Fax. +33 5 34 31 17 84 – Web. www.asf-france.org

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2004 was a year of reinforcement and recognition for ASF France.

Reinforcement by training our members in the skills necessary for carrying out our work efficiently. Thus, we launched for their benefit:

- ❖ Training programmes in team leadership
- ❖ "Training for trainers" (first and second level) to improve their ability to share their know-how

We organised training seminars for our Latin American, Burundian and Cambodian projects in order to prepare our teams for departure into the field as thoroughly as possible.

We also reinforced our ethical framework, essential when in the field, through:

- ❖ Finalising our Charter
- ❖ Creating a code of conduct, which each of us has agreed to respect

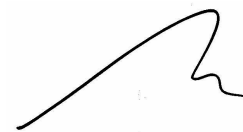
And **recognition** in earning the status of consultative body to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, as well as in being awarded the *Prix du Conférence du Stage* by the Paris Bar Association.

In seven years of existence, we have learned to combine volunteering with efficiency. We know that to be able to answer the hopes that we inspire, we must maintain strong values, enthusiasm, but also long-term commitment and method.

It is this road that we have chosen and along which we wish to continue.

We send a sincere Thank You to all those who continue to work with and support us.

In the name of all the members of our organisation, but first and foremost in the name of the men and women who have entrusted to ASF France their hopes to stay alive or to reach freedom.



François Cantier
President
Avocats Sans Frontières France

INDEX

The President's Message	1
Presentation of the Organisation	3
Projects	
• Latin America	5
• Cambodia	11
• Afghanistan	12
• Syria	15
• Russia	16
• Burundi	18
• Nigeria	20
• ICC Training in Africa	22
Professional Training	23
Events	26
Annexes	
• ASF France thanks...	29
• ASF France's Charter	33

PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANISATION

The first organisation *Avocats Sans Frontières* was created in Belgium in 1992 by lawyers from different countries with a common desire to ensure the respect of human rights. **The goal of this organisation was to defend any person whose fundamental rights were not respected and who could not benefit from the assistance of a free and independent lawyer.**

Its first large-scale action was planned and carried out following the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. Many European, American and African lawyers contributed to ensuring fair trials for the victims, as well as for the accused.

The French lawyers involved in this action created the organisation Avocats Sans Frontières in France in 1998. ASF France helped expand on the initial concept by promoting partnerships with local actors – with the aim of reinforcing the role of the defence, the right of due process and the Rule of Law.

Declared at the French Prefecture of the Haute Garonne, ASF France is governed by French law on organisations, thereby according it legal status. Today, ASF France has a total of approximately 600 members, including many lawyers as individual members, but also the majority of French bar associations as well as other professional legal organisations in France. The French National Bar Council and Conference of Bar Presidents have lent their support to ASF France as well, and the organisation maintains a close relationship with international lawyers' organisations.

In the field, ASF France's members have earned the trust of national and international organisations, with whom they have established various partnerships. On February 4, 2004, ASF France was awarded the status of consultative body to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

From Cambodia to Nigeria, from Colombia to Kosovo, ASF France develops, in close collaboration with the general public and authorities, programmes through which its members accompany local actors towards the legal reconstruction of countries in difficult situations. By helping to strengthen the Rule of Law, its members fight for the recognition of the right to a Justice without borders.

United by Common Values

"Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence."
Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 11 (1).

"To be tried in his presence, and to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing; to be informed, if he does not have legal assistance, of this right; and to have legal assistance assigned to him, in any case where the interests of justice so require, and without payment by him in any such case if he does not have sufficient means to pay for it."
International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, article 14 (d).

ASF FRANCE AROUND THE WORLD



Latin America:

Colombia: following the cases of lawyers who have been threatened, murdered or have “disappeared” as a result of their functions and the reinforcement of the legal profession

Ecuador, Guatemala, Bolivia: investigating the state of defendants’ rights

Peru: following the cases of lawyers who have been imprisoned as a result of their functions

Asia:

Syria: direct defence of a Syrian lawyer put on trial for his actions to promote human rights

Afghanistan: training on the foundations of criminal law, on criminal proceedings and on international criminal law

Cambodia: training on lawyers’ professional practice and on the use of international legal instruments

Europe:

Russia: establishing a collective framework for cooperation between lawyers and NGO’s in interventions before the European Court of Human Rights and in the legal defence of minors

Africa:

Burundi: direct defence in trials for crimes against humanity and training on professional legal practice and criminal judicial practice

Nigeria: defence of Nigerian women and children faced with sentences such as death by stoning or amputation

Francophone Africa: training lawyers – both of the victims and the accused – on defence before the International Criminal Court.

LATIN AMERICAN PROJECT: DEFENCE OF THE DEFENCE



Mainly present in Colombia and Peru, ASF France lends support to legal defenders and reinforces the legal profession in these countries. In 2004, it expanded its action to a regional scale.

Colombia

Official name: **Republic of Colombia**
Head of state and the government: **Alvaro Uribe Vélez**
Surface area: **1 141 748 km²**
Population: **44.2 million**
Capital city: **Santa Fé de Bogota**
Official language: **Spanish**

Status regarding certain fundamental conventions:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **ratified**
- Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **signed**

Reinforcement of the legal profession

Context and relevance

The Colombian context is one of armed conflict and of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Faced with this situation, Colombian lawyers – the main guardians of the right to legal defence and due process – play a key role in ensuring access for the greater population, and for vulnerable social groups in particular, to the understanding and defence of their rights as well as to the judicial system.

Yet, one of the main difficulties which they face is being associated to their client's cause. For this reason, many lawyers who defend those accused of belonging to armed groups, victims of human rights violations or various trade unions have been subjected to threats, enforced disappearance or assassination.

Faced with these attacks, the lack of sufficient and powerful professional bodies, whether they take the form of organisations or orders, has left them unprotected, particularly in the provinces. In addition, this isolation makes it difficult for them to obtain professional training and prevents them from fulfilling their professional role.

In 1998, ASF France established relations with Colombian lawyers who expressed their need for a programme of professional solidarity able to address their extremely precarious situation. Two years of collaboration between French and Colombian volunteers from ASF France and colleagues in the field have followed with the aim of establishing a network of contacts in the legal and associative milieus and to work out the precise needs of local lawyers.

In 2001, the project “Defence of the defence” was born, allowing ASF France’s volunteers to work alongside Colombian lawyers and to help them overcome these obstacles.

The project's activities thus aim to improve the security, independence, and professional training of lawyers, as well as to help local authorities and the general public recognise the legitimacy of their functions and the need to ensure special protection for them due to the nature of the role they play in developing of the Rule of Law.

In defending legal defenders, the project aims to improve access for the entire population to justice and to the understanding and defence of their rights via the services of free and independent lawyers with both the means and the security necessary for carrying out their profession.

Activities in 2004

Evaluation of and information on the state of defendants' rights

❖ *Field missions*

Throughout 2004, "Defence of the defence" volunteer lawyers conducted seven missions to Colombia in order to follow up on the cases of lawyers at risk or assassinated due to the nature of their functions; carry out training activities; establish new contacts and follow up on those already established with local authorities and lawyers; lay the groundwork for the *Maison de l' Avocat* (literally "Lawyer's House", see further information below) in Bogota.

❖ *Annual report*

A report is published every year on the situation of lawyers in Colombia based on data collected during the field missions. In 2004, it was published in French, English and Spanish in order to reach a wider audience.

This census of the situation of Colombian lawyers can unfortunately never be considered complete. On the contrary, a growing number of lawyers have been victim to threats or assassination due to the exercise of their profession. In 2004 alone, more than 25 assassinations of lawyers were recorded in the country.

Reinforcement of local structures for legal defence

❖ *Training for Colombian lawyers*

In Colombia, ASF France organises seminars, forums and workshops for Colombian lawyers with the aim of reinforcing their expertise in the following areas:

- The evolution of international legal instruments in the fight against impunity – 5 workshops in 2004 in Popayan, Cucuta, Ibague, Carthagena and Quibdo.
- The ongoing reform of the Colombian criminal procedure, in collaboration with local legal actors – 1 national seminar in Bogota and 2 workshops in Ibague and Bucaramanga in 2004.
- Organising the legal profession and judicial guarantees – 2 regional forums in Cali and Medellin in 2004.

These events also help put an end to the isolation of many Colombian lawyers, especially those in the conflict-ridden areas. During these training activities, participants share their experiences and foster new bonds aimed at improving communication between them as well as their security.

❖ *La Maison de l'Avocat in Bogota*

A large part of ASF France's work in Colombia in 2004 was focused on the creation of the *Maison de l'Avocat* in Bogota (inaugurated on February 24, 2005).



The *Maison de l'Avocat* is a centre for legal documentation and legislative updates, making it possible for Colombian lawyers to be represented in discussions with local authorities on issues concerning defendants' rights and how to structure the legal profession. The *Maison* will also play the role of an emergency network, lending aid to colleagues in difficulty, as well as collecting information on the worst of the attacks on defendants' rights and lawyers' security.

❖ *La Fondation Abogados sin Fronteras en Colombia*

The 19 August 2004, ASF France, along with its local partners, created the *Fundación Abogados sin Fronteras en Colombia* (ASF Foundation in Colombia), based at the *Maison de l'Avocat* in Bogota.

By its very existence, the *Fundación* helps to reinforce the associative matrix uniting Colombian lawyers. In the field, the creation of a legal entity in Colombia makes it possible both to engage in internal civil action cases concerning the assassination or enforced disappearance of lawyers and to bring cases before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Actions of solidarity

❖ *Temporary exile of a lawyer at risk*

A solidarity fund dedicated to the project was used in part to make it possible for a Colombian lawyer to leave the country temporarily for security reasons in May-June 2004. This action will probably be followed by a longer period of exile in 2005.

❖ *Support for the family of an assassinated lawyer*

Financial aid was given to the family of a Colombian lawyer whose assassination had left his young daughter completely destitute. Thanks to this support, she was able to continue her education.

❖ *Solidarity benefit for Colombian lawyers*

The best way to go about creating and strengthening an emergency network is through the organisation of specific events. Keeping this in mind, ASF France organised a solidarity benefit on May 25, 2004, as part of an international campaign launched by Colombian lawyers themselves. The participation of the Paris Bar Association, the National Bar Council, the Conference of Bar Presidents and of numerous other European, international and French professional organisations made this event possible.

Prospects for 2005

In 2005, the "Defence of the defence " project shall continue carrying out the key activities already being implemented in Colombia – field missions, professional training and the census of lawyers under threat or assassinated. In addition, this year shall be dedicated to reinforcing some of the project's more recent activities such as developing the *Maison de l'Avocat* and the emergency network for Colombian lawyers.

Peru

Official name: **Republic of Peru**

Capital city: **Lima**

Surface area: **1 285 216 km²**

Population: **27.2 million**

Head of state: **Alejandro Toledo Manrique**

Head of Government: **Beatriz Merino Lucero**

Status regarding certain fundamental conventions:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **ratified**
- Optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **signed**

Alongside our imprisoned colleagues

Context and relevance

In 1999, ASF France intervened in a case of direct legal defence concerning six Peruvian lawyers put on trial as a result of their professional activity. Thanks to this intervention, volunteers from ASF France were able to understand the situation of defence lawyers in Peru.

The period of violence that Peru experienced in the years 1980-90 had deep repercussions on the conditions under which lawyers work. The majority of the population having vehemently rejected the methods used by the different armed rebels – and the *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path) in particular – anyone who for whatever reason, private or professional, has been in contact with them risks stigmatisation.

Various organisations believed they could avoid this risk by defending “innocent people” to the exclusion of all others. Yet this attitude only contributed to the de-legitimisation of legal defence itself. Lawyers who refused to participate in this “sifting” were assumed to be defending the “presumed guilty” and thus to be acting in complicity or ideological conspiracy with their clients.

The effects of the association between lawyers and their clients’ causes have persisted far beyond the period of political violence. **Even now, lawyers that accept to defend those accused of terrorism or to take on sensitive affairs still risk harassment and prosecution in the courts.**

It is in this context that several ASF France team members go on mission to Peru each year in order to record and follow up on the cases of lawyers imprisoned as a result of their profession. They meet with professional organisations and local authorities in the hopes of ensuring that the trials progress in accordance with international norms.

Activities in 2004

In August 2004, a French and Colombian lawyer-volunteer team conducted a mission to Peru, during which they met with several colleagues who have been in prison for the past decade (or more). As no lawyer has agreed to defend them for fear of finding themselves in the same situation, several of those in prison have asked authorisation to provide their own defence.

Unfortunately, Peruvian law reserves this right to lawyers currently enrolled at the bar association, which implies being up to date on their inscription fees. As the lawyers in question have had no means of earning income since their imprisonment, they are obviously unable to pay their inscription fees – and are thus unable to defend themselves.

At their request, ASF France has intervened before their respective bar associations asking that their payment of inscription fees be waived.

Prospects for 2005

A mission is scheduled for the summer of 2005, during which volunteers from ASF France shall re-establish contact with their colleagues on trial in order to determine how best ASF France can assist them. Possible courses of action include intervening on their behalf before the local authorities or ensuring the follow up of their cases at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

In the region

On the basis of our field experience in Colombia and Peru, ASF France extended its support for legal defence work to the level of the Latin American region in 2004. Missions made up of ASF France

members and Latin American lawyers target several different countries each year in order to evaluate the specific situation of lawyers and defendants' right, with the long-term goal of creating a regional network of information and support.

The state of legal defence in Latin America

Activities in 2004

In 2004, three exploratory missions were conducted in Bolivia, Ecuador and Guatemala, each realised by a French and a Latin American lawyer-volunteer. During these visits, the mission members established contact with professional organisations and local colleagues, studied the country's penal system and mutually shared their experiences of legal defence.

Bolivia

Official name: **Republic of Bolivia**
Surface area: **1 098 581 km²**
Capital city: **La Paz**
Population: **8.28 million**
Official language: **Spanish**
Money: **Boliviano**
Head of State: **Carlos Mesa Gisbert**

Status regarding certain fundamental conventions:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **ratified**
- Convention on the Rights of the Child: **ratified**
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: **ratified**
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court: **ratified**

Context and relevance

Bolivia is in the throes of a historical period of transition, shifting from a classic yet corrupt representative democracy towards a participative democracy, in which the indigenous population, after fighting for centuries to defend their country's natural resources, shall be in a position to reclaim decisional power.

In this context, Bolivian lawyers find themselves in a much less vulnerable situation than in other Latin American countries. With both considerable resources and a clearly present infrastructure, professional organisations are able to offer them a certain amount of protection. Nevertheless, widespread corruption in Bolivia has affected many of these organisations, and numerous Bolivian colleagues distrust them, particularly those that are active in the field of land ownership conflicts.

These lawyers often find themselves isolated and may face security problems as a result of their work.

Ecuador

Official name: **Republic of Ecuador**
Surface area: **276 840 km²**
Capital city: **Quito**
Population: **13 million**
Official Language: **Spanish**
Money: **American dollar**
Head of state: **Lucio Gutierrez**



Status regarding certain fundamental conventions:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **ratified**
- Convention on the Rights of the Child: **ratified**
- Convention against Torture and Other Punishments or Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment: **ratified**
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court: **ratified**

Context and relevance

The election of Colonel Lucio Gutierrez in January 2004 gave rise to a new hope among Ecuadorians that his promises to eliminate poverty and corruption would be kept. Since then, a general disenchantment has become evident, leading to a growing risk of confrontation between the population and the government, in particular as concerns the indigenous movement.

At first glance, the constitutional and judicial framework in which Ecuadorian lawyers practice appears favourable to their work; however, given the complex political context, they are often stigmatised and faced with obstacles in their professional activity.

In particular, Ecuadorian professional organisations have created long lists of several thousand lawyers who have – or who are suspected of having – defended people accused of crimes related to drug traffic. This is without precedent in Latin America. Similarly, lawyers that defend minorities' rights or stand in the way of oil multi-nationals' interests become the victims of persecution, threats or assassination.

Guatemala

Official Name: **Republic of Guatemala**

Surface area: **108 890km²**

Capital city: **Guatemala**

Population: **1.3 million**

Official language: **Spanish**

Money: **Quetzal**

Head of state: **Oscar Berger**

Status regarding certain fundamental conventions:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **ratified**
- Convention on the Rights of the Child: **ratified**
- Convention against Torture and Other Punishment or Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment: **accession**

Context and relevance

Following more than thirty years of armed conflict in Guatemala, peace negotiations in 1996 were accompanied by a truth-seeking process. The work of the United Nations commissions and the Diocese of Guatemala brought the truth to light concerning the conditions in which over 250,000 people, mostly peasants of Mayan origin, had died or disappeared. Unfortunately, despite the detailed information in these reports and an amnesty law that does not cover crimes against humanity, impunity in these collective crimes is almost complete.

It is extremely difficult for the victims of these crimes to find lawyers prepared to take on court action of this nature – probably due to the lack of communication between the Indian communities from which they come and their potential lawyers, nearly all of urban and European origin. They may also fear acting against the armed forces born out of the counter-insurgent war and that remain present and powerful both in civilian and political society and maintain ties to organised crime (several lawyers



have been assassinated in recent years, the explanations for which have yet to be found). The few ongoing trials (less than fifteen) have been taken on by two organisations (the Myrna Mack Foundation and the CALDH) and a lawyer working alone and with great courage on nearly ten cases.

Moreover, in 1994, Guatemala was one of the first Latin American countries to reform its criminal code, transforming it into a mixed system and thereby allowing victims the possibility of intervening during their trials. Much of international aid in Guatemala aims to follow up on and lend support to the implementation of these penal reforms as well as the restoration of the Rule of Law. International representatives have remarked on the lack of training among judicial operators and of safeguards throughout their judicial career.

On the condition that sufficient financial and human resources be obtained, ASF France may direct its efforts at creating a reduced number of professional structures capable of taking on court actions to the benefit of conflict victims. One possible way of organising such an endeavour would be to set up a collaborative exchange between Guatemalan jurists ready to take on this type of case and their Colombian counterparts, who have considerable experience and working methods in this arena.

Prospects for 2005 in the region

In 2005, we have scheduled two exploratory missions at the regional level – in Brazil and Mexico with the same goals in mind as for the missions last year. In the long term, and depending on the requests of our local colleagues, this activity targets the creation of an informative and cooperative network for legal defenders throughout the region.

CAMBODIAN PROJECT

Official name: **Kingdom of Cambodia**
Capital city: **Phnom Penh**
Surface area: **181000km²**
Population: **14.1 million**
Head of state: **Norodom Sihanouk**
Head of government: **Hun Sen**

Status of the country relative to certain fundamental conventions:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **ratified**
- Convention on the Rights of the Child: **accession**
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: **accession**
- Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court: **ratified**

Towards an efficient legal defence

Context and relevance

Twenty years of civil war and genocide have deprived Cambodia of an entire generation of independent professionals. The country's institutions were destroyed; its lawyers, executed or exiled; its libraries, looted or burned.

ASF France and the Cambodian Bar Association have been collaborating, since 1998, through numerous conferences and meetings. Having noticed the hopes of a growing number of young jurists to enter the legal profession, the Cambodian Bar Association asked for the organisation's assistance in training student lawyers. **This need thus prompted the creation of a training centre for Cambodian lawyers in 2001.**

The goal of the project is to train Cambodian lawyers in the use of international legal instruments intended to protect human rights. Cambodian lawyers have, for the most part, never been trained in this field. Yet these instruments could very well be used along with Cambodian laws before the special tribunal created for judging the Khmer Rouge.

ASF France has undertaken several field missions in Cambodia (March 2000, April 2001, January 2002 and July 2003). These preparatory missions made it possible to identify the specific needs of the Kingdom of Cambodia's Bar Association.

By strengthening the legal profession in Cambodia, ASF France is contributing to the restoration of the Rule of Law.

Activities in 2004

The first mission took place in Phnom Penh and consisted of meetings with judicial authorities, the Bar Association and the French Embassy in order to finalise the project's implementation and, in particular, the initial training courses in 2005. The training programme was prepared and made it possible to write up a training manual for the use of future Cambodian trainers. On the basis of this work, a partnership was established between ASF France and the Cambodian Bar Association with the goal of organising the training sessions to come in January 2005.

Prospects for 2005

As a result of the partnership between ASF France and the Cambodian Bar Association, two training courses will take place in the field in 2005. One, in January, directed at student lawyers, will cover lawyers' professional practice and the other, in July and also for student lawyers, will cover the use of international legal instruments.

AFGHAN PROJECT

Official name: **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

Capital city: **Kabul**

Surface area: **652090 km²**

Population: **22.9 million (2002)**

- Of which refugees: **2.5 million (1.5million in Pakistan, 1 million in Iran)**
- And displaced persons within Afghanistan: **200 000 (end of 2003)**

Head of state: **Hamid Karzai**

Status regarding certain fundamental conventions:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **ratified**
- Convention on the Rights of the Child: **ratified**
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: **ratified**
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **signed**

Professional training laying the path for reconstruction

Context and relevance

Despite recent advances, the restoration of the Rule of Law in Afghanistan and the reinforcement of the working conditions of legal professionals will only be possible with the support and commitment of local as well as international actors. For this reason, ASF France and ASF Quebec – thanks to their experience, particularly in Kosovo – hope to share their technical and professional know-how in the field.

In addition, the numerous treaties and international conventions already ratified by Afghanistan constitute valuable legal tools for compensate for deficiencies in Afghan law as regards the protection of human rights. This also provides a legal means to protect fundamental rights when they have been infringed upon, as happens, in particular, due to the numerous and diverse interpretations of Muslim law.

ASF France and ASF Quebec thus decided to encourage the development of the legal profession as a tool for reconstructing the Rule of Law, the aim being to facilitate access to legal assistance for all those subject to judicial procedures and, in particular, for the most vulnerable social sectors, such as women and children.

Activities in 2004

Groundwork laid for training

As first conceived in 2003, the Afghan project contributes to the reconstruction of the legal profession through the implementation of specialised updating courses, as preparation for taking the examination of aptitude for the legal profession, given by the ANAD (*Association nationale des avocats de la defence*, or National Association of Defence Lawyers).

In order to prepare the first of these training courses – on the penal procedure, family law, child law, international legal instruments, the International Criminal Court, victim's rights and women's rights – a field mission was conducted in June and July 2004.

The mission members met with various operational and financial partners, such as the Ministry of Justice, the Afghan Jurists Association, the United Nations Programme for Development, the French Embassy and the Kabul University Law Department. Each one demonstrated their full support for the project.



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES
France

Participation in the creation of ANAD

At the request of the Afghan Ministry of Justice, ASF France and ASF Quebec both contributed writing to a proposal for an official document on the creation of the National Association of Defence Lawyers. This organisation shall be responsible for bestowing diplomas granting access to the legal profession in Afghanistan.

Prospects for 2005

In February 2005, a mission made up of lawyers from ASF France and ASF Quebec shall present the document to the Minister of Justice.

Beginning in the second trimester of 2005, specialised updating courses for Afghan jurists will be held in Kabul on social law, penal procedure and international law.

SYRIAN PROJECT

Official name: **Syrian Arab republic**
Capital city: **Damascus**
Surface area: **185 180 km²**
Population: **17.8 million**
Head of state and government: **Bacher el Assad**

Status regarding certain fundamental conventions:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **accession with reservations**
- Convention on the Rights of the Child: **ratified with reservations**
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: **accession with reservations**
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court: **signed**

The defence of a Syrian lawyer under threat

Context and relevance

Aktham Naisse is a Syrian lawyer and President of the Committee for the Defence of Democratic Liberties and Human Rights in Syria (CDF). He was arrested on April 13, 2004, and appeared before the Supreme State Security Court on January 16, 2005. He has been accused of two crimes – “opposing the objectives of the revolution” and “distributing false information in order to weaken the State” – and risks 15 years of hard labour.

According to the annual report of Amnesty International, the human rights situation in Syria is still uncertain and the exercise of free speech is far from being guaranteed, as demonstrated by this arrest in particular.

Nonetheless, Aktham Naisse's struggle in favour of human rights in Syria has been recognised, as seen in the granting of two awards to him in 2004: the Ludovic Trarieux Award and the Martin Ennals Award.

ASF France has agreed to participate in the defence of Aktham Naisse, alongside a united group of Egyptian and Syrian lawyers. ASF France mission members shall coordinate the defence of Aktham Naisse. They shall ensure that international norms of human rights protection be respected by the Supreme State Security Court.

Activities in 2004

ASF France mission members have met with Aktham Naisse on several occasions. Numerous contacts have been established with local lawyers in order to prepare a defence strategy before the Supreme State Security Court in Damascus. Initially scheduled for August 2004, then October, ASF France's missions to Syria were delayed as a result of the hearing's postponement.

Prospects for 2005

ASF France went to Syria to prepare Aktham Naisse's defence from January 14 to 19, 2005. A close partnership was established with the lawyers in the field in order to coordinate the casework.

The defence hearing was postponed to April 24, 2005. Another ASF France mission is still in preparation. Its purpose is to coordinate the writing up of the defence's argument before the Supreme State Security Court.

RUSSIAN PROJECT

Official name: **Russian Federation**
Capital city: **Moscow**
Surface area: **17 075 400km²**
Population: **143.2 million**
Head of State: **Vladimir Putin**
Head of Government: **Mikhail Kassianov**

Status regarding certain fundamental conventions:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **ratified**
- Optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **signed**
- Convention on the Rights of the Child: **ratified**
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: **ratified**
- Rome Statute of the International criminal court: **signed**

European norms for defending minors

Context and relevance

The Russian project was created in 2000 at the initiative of several ASF France lawyer-members concerned by the state of human rights in Russia and anxious to improve conditions in the country pertaining to the Rule of Law.

After the preparatory mission, it became clear that there existed a clear lack of training on the European Convention on Human Rights; on the other hand, there was also a strong demand for such training. This opened the door to determining the pedagogical content of the training courses to come in detail.

Indeed, although ratified by the Russian Federation in 1998, the ECHR has only rarely been invoked before jurisdictions both in Russia and before the European Court in Strasbourg, where very few individual cases have been presented against Russia. The first two actions resulted in verdicts, and several other cases were admitted for examination in 2003.

On the other hand, the Chechen situation is still extremely alarming.

It being extremely difficult to obtain reparation before Russian jurisdictions, victims expect much from the Convention and, in particular, from its jurisdictional organism, the European Court of Human Rights.

However, it remains very difficult to access this mechanism for reasons arising as much from the complexity of the procedure or from “logistical” and political problems that the victims and their representatives face as from a lack of training among legal professionals.

Similarly, **the entire Russian judicial system remains hermetically sealed against the implementation of these norms.** Few lawyers or magistrates rely on European norms even though it is fully possible to invoke them directly via internal law – possibility capable of broadening the range of protection for individuals.

In 2003, a meeting with a deputy from the St. Petersburg *Douma*, himself active in the defence of isolated minors, brought to light the specific problems of young Russians, orphans or isolated minors without legal assistance before the courts, young insubordinate soldiers, etc. **A collaborative project**

was set up for the defence of minors before the courts, on the basis of the European Court for Human Rights and the New York Convention on the Rights of the Child.

ASF France believes that, in order for this work to be done, it is necessary to encourage the growth of lawyer's groups and NGO's and to function via a network through the creation of unions or federations – groups whose future purpose is to be capable of leading negotiations with the authorities.

Activities in 2004

Project logistics

In order to prepare training courses on the European Court of Human Rights and for the defence of minors in St. Petersburg and Moscow, ASF France created a local branch of the organisation in Grenoble in January 2004. The creation of this section will make it possible to accomplish in-depth work on the issue of training in Russia. The lawyers and jurists of the Grenoble branch organised several meetings for organising the logistics of the March 2005 mission. Various contacts were made in the field in St. Petersburg and Moscow.

Prospects for 2005

Two missions – one preparatory mission and one training mission – are expected for Moscow in 2005.

Courses of two different levels shall be held for lawyers and NGO legal experts on the European Convention on Human Rights and bringing cases before the Court.

In addition, ASF France members shall organise meetings on collective legal defence and working via a network in St. Petersburg and in the North Caucasus throughout 2005. These meetings shall focus on the defence of minors through the use of specific international instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Convention of Human Rights.

BURUNDIAN PROJECT

Official name: **Republic of Burundi**
Capital city: **Bujumbura**
Surface area: **27835 km²**
Population: **6.8 million**
Head of state and the government: **Domitian Ndayizeye**

Status relating to certain fundamental conventions:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **ratified**
- Optional protocol on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **signed**
- Convention on the Rights of the Child: **ratified**
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: **accession**
- Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court: **ratified**

The lawyer's role in post-conflict justice

Context and relevance

The conflicts that tore apart Rwanda and the Congo had a direct effect on the civil war in Burundi. Since the Arusha Accords, the situation has been reaching democratic balance, yet the judicial system remains to be reconstructed.

In 2003, two new laws were adopted: The first on suppressing the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and the second setting up a double degree of jurisdiction for penal cases.

As of today, nearly 4,500 prisoners have been accused of participating in the "1993 massacres" – Hutus for the most part. These new laws should have the effect of accelerating the trials of the accused.

The need for ASF France to intervene has thus become urgent, for the majority of Burundian lawyers (young and inexperienced for the most part) are unprepared for these trials.

In addition, recent conflicts in the country have contributed to the lack of organisation within the legal system. Only one national lawyers' order exists in Burundi, at which very few practitioners are registered.

ASF France has thus become active in reinforcing the Rule of Law via the legal profession.

Indeed, the purpose of the project is to help strengthen the Burundian Bar Association, thereby allowing it to expand its role as a safeguard for the Rule of Law. The necessary precursors for reinforcing the legal profession include: strengthening its member's professional capabilities; sharing work methods and the know-how necessary for carrying out the profession; and training young lawyers, the legal professionals of the future, in criminal law, penal procedure and the use of international legal instruments.

Activities in 2004

Training in Toulouse

In 2004, the groundwork was laid for reinforcing the legal profession in Burundi.

Four lawyers from the Burundi Bar Association – the Bar President among them – came to the head office of ASF France to prepare a training course scheduled for 2005 in Bujumbura.

During a training session in Toulouse from July 24 to 29, 2004, ASF France's volunteer trainers and lawyers helped the members of the Burundian Bar Association to determine the specific educational needs of local lawyers. The particular methodological tools used during the course were effectively passed on to them.

Furthermore, a manual for future training sessions was written up in 2004. The courses to come shall focus on providing local lawyers, and young practitioners in particular, with the skills necessary for adapting their work to the needs of Burundians – whether victims or accused – in the context of recent developments in the penal procedure.

This event in Toulouse made it possible for the Burundian lawyers and ASF France's trainers to plan out the intervention of ASF France's lawyers (volunteer trainers) in Bujumbura in 2005.

Prospects for 2005

Training in Bujumbura

From April 11 to 22, 2005, two lawyer-volunteers from ASF France shall hold a course in Burundi on criminal law, penal procedure and international legal instruments.

In 2005, further activities shall include:

- Writing up a practical guide on penal procedure and criminal law as applicable in Burundi (based on both Burundian law and international laws ratified by the Burundian government)

This pamphlet shall be written by ASF France's lawyer-trainers in cooperation with members of the Burundian Bar Association, as well as with lawyers participating in the professional training. It shall then be distributed to all Burundian lawyers and to various institutions directly concerned by the subject, such as universities.

- The organisation of workshops for the general public.

These workshops shall be organised by local lawyers who will have completed ASF France's training programme. Their purpose is to increase public awareness of the lawyer's role, of the organisation of the justice system and of defendants' rights.

NIGERIAN PROJECT

Official name: **Federal Republic of Nigeria**

Capital city: **Abuja**

Surface area: **923768km²**

Population: **124 million**

Head of state and government: **Olesegun Obasanjo**

Status of country regarding certain fundamental conventions:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: **ratified**
- Convention relating to Children's rights: **ratified**
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: **ratified**
- statute of Rome on the International Criminal Court: **ratified**

Women's rights and death by stoning

Context and relevance

In 2002, a 30-year-old woman named **Amina Lawal was condemned to death by stoning for having a child out of wedlock**. This sentence was given due to the implementation of Sharia in criminal law in 12 states out of 36 since 1999. ASF France's initial objective consisted of collaborating with Amina Lawal's lawyers, particularly Dr. Hauwa Ibrahim, during the multiple hearings of her appeal trial, in March, June and August 2003. From the outset, this objective was realised in partnership with ASF Quebec.

After the acquittal of Amina Lawal in September 2003, it became clear that sentences of death by stoning, amputation and whipping were still being applied (47 cases in Dr. Ibrahim's office alone).

It was thus decided to expand ASF France's scope of action in Nigeria, in order to help ensure to the respect of due process, the reinforcement of the legal profession and the legal defence of the populations most at risk of such sentences – and in particular, women.

The Nigerian project is scheduled to be active in the province of Bauchi over a period of 3 years.

Its activities include:

- The creation of a network of Nigerian lawyers working on Sharia cases and, more generally, on cases where the right to due process or the exercise of the legal profession are at risk;
- The establishment of a resource centre in Bauchi, "trial" state for the network and
- The organisation of training sessions aiming to facilitate lawyer's work.

Practically speaking, **the teams of ASF France and ASF Quebec will keep track of developments in eight cases, to be identified during a mission in January 2005**. Through the follow up of these cases – emblematic of diverse legal and human configurations – the lawyers' work shall consist of helping the defence council bring together Sharia law, "classic" criminal law and the eleven fundamental rights of the Nigerian constitution, also implemented in 1999.

A branch of ASF France shall be created in Nigeria, in order to ensure the follow up of these cases and to keep us informed of developments.

In Nigeria, ASF France contributes to the restoration of the Rule of Law via: ensuring coherency between Sharia law, the Nigerian constitution and the international treaties signed by Nigeria in the realm of fundamental rights (such as the right to remain silent, the right to legal council, etc.).

Via the creation of a network, a resource centre and the organisation of meetings both in Nigeria and abroad on this subject, and on Sharia in particular, ASF France actively participates in the reinforcement of the Rule of Law.

The cases followed will be those of individuals risking death by stoning, whipping or amputation, the goal being to obtain their acquittal. One concerns a young woman imprisoned along with her young child, and two others, individuals who were minor at the time of the acts held against them.

Activities in 2004

The application of Sharia law has led to verdicts in contradiction with Sharia law itself, but also with the Nigerian constitution, putting the lives of the most vulnerable individuals at risk (women, children, the illiterate and the poor).

In early 2004, a conference on Sharia law and the rights of women was held in San Francisco (United States): Dr. Hauwa Ibrahim, Amina Lawal's lawyer, attended and spoke at the conference. This operation generated fundraising for the Nigerian missions, and for the January 2005 mission in particular.

A fundraising campaign for the Nigerian project was launched at the end of the year with great success, which demonstrates **the willingness of donors to help defend Nigerian women in the courts**.

The November edition of ASF France's newsletter was in part dedicated to articles on the position of women in the context of Sharia: Three cases of women sentenced to death by stoning were identified, amongst which that of Daso Adamu, acquitted on December 9, 2004.

Prospects for 2005

An exploratory mission to define ASF France's objective in Nigeria January 5-15, 2005:

- Establishing contact with the President of the Code of Conduct Tribunal, the president of the Nigerian Bar Association, the President of the Programme Support Unit, the General Director of the Nigerian Legal Aid Council, as well as with ambassadors and lawyers in Nigeria.
- Interview with NTA, the Nigerian national television network.
- Visit to the prison of Bauchi in Nigeria with the General Prosecutor in order to meet with prisoners sentenced to death by stoning.
- Meeting with Nigerian lawyers, representatives of the Bar Association, local practitioners, law professors, representatives of the public ministry; meeting with Sharia judges or imams with an authoritative voice on the subject and a meeting with potential public financial backers.

In addition, ASF France shall conduct missions to Bauchi in June and September in order to create a network and, more specifically, a resource centre.

An event shall be organised in Paris on the theme "Sharia law and women's rights."

Follow up on identified cases and the organisation of an additional field mission if necessary.

In the middle- and long-term, ASF France hopes to create a branch in Nigeria.

ICC TRAINING PROJECT IN AFRICA



The purpose of the International Criminal Court is to put an end to the most serious crimes, to urge states to bring those responsible to justice and to try them if local mechanisms cannot. Africa has been and unfortunately remains the scene of serious human rights violations. African lawyers would like to be sufficiently prepared for ensuring the legal defence of both the victims and those accused of these crimes.

Legal defence before the International Criminal Court

Context and relevance

ASF France, after eight years of experience in the field, has developed an expertise in the defence of both victims and accused, on an international level and in diverse and complex judicial, legal and political contexts: In Rwanda, Burundi, Kosovo, Peru and Colombia.

In addition, several of its members have ensured legal defence before the International Criminal Tribunals (ICT for the Former Yugoslavia, and ICT for Rwanda). Through its missions, ASF France has established – and still maintains – close relationships with lawyers from other countries, and Africans in particular.

This is how the ASF movement came to be present in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Congo-Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Senegal.

On the basis of these privileged relationships, **lawyers and bar associations from several African countries have asked ASF France to offer specialised training on the use of international legal instruments for the protection of human rights and on the International Criminal Court.**

Several amongst them – specifically those from the Congo, the Ivory Coast and Senegal – have already participated in several of ASF France's training sessions in France and would like for such training sessions to be created in their own countries. In the short-term, ASF France shall concentrate its actions in the **Congo, Cameroon, the Ivory Coast and Mali**. These training sessions shall be organised in collaboration with local lawyers, who already have the necessary expertise, and whom ASF France shall assist by incorporating its particular methodology.

Activities in 2004

ASF France conceptualised a training session targeting the future defence lawyers of victims and accused before the International Criminal Court. After two modules held in France in 2003 on the pre-trial phase and the chronology of ICC trials, a **third module on victim's rights was held on April 2-3, 2004** – for French members and non-members of ASF France, as well as lawyers from Cameroon, the Congo, the Ivory Coast and Mali.

ASF France also wrote a **manual** on the subject which may serve as a reference for defence council in such affairs.

Along with other organisations, **ASF France joined the Coalition for the International Criminal Court** and was recognised by the Coalition for its expertise on legal defence in international law.

Prospects for 2005

As soon as financial support has been acquired, training courses shall be organised in the four countries mentioned above. ASF France also plans on providing training sessions in other francophone countries in 2005 – particularly in Senegal where an ASF branch already exists.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The professional training organised by ASF France constitutes an essential tool for improving the quality and the efficiency of its actions.

Tools for reinforcing our action

Professional training for lawyers interested in becoming involved in our projects remains one of our essential preoccupations in ASF France.

Indeed, our organisation takes care to ensure that its lawyer-members are specially prepared to take on missions, often of a sensitive nature, in the field.

KEY FIGURES IN 2004

4 trainers mobilised
7 training sessions held
75 people trained
105 hours of training given

Our training sessions are conceptualised and led by professional trainers and invited speakers whose professional expertise is unanimously recognised.

In addition, they use specific dynamic and interactive educational methods that allow students to optimise their acquisition of know-how and knowledge that will be essential in their future missions.

Finally, our training programmes are compatible with life-long professional learning for legal practitioners.

Training sessions in 2004

Training for trainers

Currently, many of ASF France's projects in the field – either ongoing or in planning – require specific training – from which stems the need to train future trainers. Faced with this development – increasingly clear over the past four years – the organisation chose to expand its team of potential trainers likely to participate in the projects.

The sessions of “training for trainers” are led by Marie-José Cantier, Expert in Educational Methods , and provide their participants with the skills necessary for acting as trainer in the context of our projects' activities.

- ❖ *Reinforcement level: March 19-20, 2004*

Second-level students reinforced their knowledge of methods and of how to lead their own training sessions.

- ❖ *Beginner's level: September 22-26, 2004*

The goal was for students to play the role of trainer and advisor, by identifying the most suitable attitudes, behaviour and methods for working cooperatively and for training.

ASF France decided to expand this session to a week-long period. The students thus received more technical and thorough training, allowing them to further develop their skills in the field.

International Criminal Court

- ❖ *Third module: “ The Victims” April 2-3, 2004*

The International Criminal Court, the role of which is to try individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes of aggression, entered into force on July 1, 2002.

Regulations governing evidence and procedure before this jurisdiction are very specific, as are those before the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals.

In order to prepare lawyers who intend to provide defence counsel before this institution, ASF France organised a training session this year allowing students to utilise current regulations for the defence of victims' rights. This training session was conceptualised by Marie-Pierre Poulain.

Participants were thus able to tackle the issue of representing victims before the International Criminal Court in a concrete way, through role-playing and case studies.

“Defence of the defence in Latin America”

❖ *June 18-19, 2004 in Paris*

“Defence of the Defence in Latin America” is a pioneer project for ASF France, whose need for additional human resources recently became clear. For this reason, in 2004, a further session was held on this subject.

Conducted for the most part in Spanish, this training session consistently calls on the intervention of a foreign speaker. This year, the Colombian lawyer Dora Lucy Arias, President of the Association of Defence Lawyers Eduardo Umaña Mendoza, led the seminar along with Françoise Mathe, Vice President of ASF France and Latin American Project Leader.

This training session made it possible for lawyers involved in the project to gain, on the one hand, a better understanding of the political and legal context in Colombia and, on the other, to identify complex situations in which our Colombian colleagues and ASF France's mission members may find themselves, as well as to explore legal strategies and behaviour to be implemented in the field.

This session was also an opportunity for students to better understand the project and our methods for acting in the field.

Team Leadership

❖ *February 13-14, 2004*

The training session allowed project leaders to develop their skills in team leadership, particularly in the context of running a team of lawyers involved in one particular project. It was led by Marie-José Cantier.

Cambodian Project Training

❖ *May 7-8, 2004*

By the end of this session, the students had gained knowledge of the political and legal context in Cambodia.

They now know how to identify situations where the judicial system does not function as well as the particular problems which their Cambodian colleagues face in carrying out their professional activities; and how to determine suitable behaviour and procedures once in the field, in order to raise awareness among Cambodian lawyers of these very difficulties.

Lastly, they are now capable of offering solutions to judicial and legal issues in Cambodia.

This session was led by Martin Jacquin, our Cambodian Project Leader.

Burundian Project Training

❖ *July 2004*

A “Training for Trainers” course targeting Burundian lawyers that covered professional educational methods and focuses on define their training needs with the ASF France team. The course came under the responsibility of Marie-Paule Voisin d’Ambry with the assistance of Marie-José Cantier.

Prospects for 2005

- ❖ **International Legal Instruments for the Protection of Human Rights:**
February 11-12 2005
- ❖ **Cambodian Project Training:** March 18-19, 2005
- ❖ **“Defence of the Defence in Latin America”:** April 1-2, 2005
- ❖ **Training for Trainers**
 - Beginner’s level: May 13-16, 2005
 - In-depth review of first level: Late June (dates as yet undetermined)
 - Reinforcement level: Early July (dates as yet undetermined)
- ❖ **International Criminal Court:** Early September (dates as yet undetermined)

EVENTS

Each year, ASF France organises events on international justice. In 2004, the organisation was also awarded for its work to defend human rights.

A wide range of events

ASF France continued to raise awareness about its actions in 2004, organising various events that reached a large audience and demonstrated its **actions to serve international criminal justice**.

Tribute to our assassinated colleagues

ASF France called the attention of French institutions and European representatives of the legal profession to the difficult situation of Colombian lawyers.

ASF France held a **solidarity benefit for Colombian lawyers** at the Paris Courthouse on May 25, 2004, in cooperation with the Paris Bar Association, the Conference of Bar Presidents and the National Bar Council.

Representatives of the French Foreign Ministry, of the Colombian Embassy and of several European lawyers' organisations attended.

The evening focused on several tributes to Colombian lawyers who had died exercising their profession and ended with a **declaration of solidarity, signed by representative institutions of the legal profession and sent to the President of the Republic of Colombia**.

Actions on the internationalisation of justice

International criminal justice lies at the centre of ASF France's concerns.

With this in mind, the organisation hosted a **conference on international criminal justice on March 5, 2004, in cooperation with Amnesty International**. Claude Jorda, former President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and magistrate at the International Criminal Court, shared his experience as a long-standing practitioner of international criminal justice.

ASF France has also hosted conferences on this theme as part of the **conference series organised by the GREP** (*Groupe de recherché sur l'éducation et la politique*, or Research Group on Education and Politics).

In addition, ASF France co-organised a workshop with the Nantes Bar Association on "**Human rights: Terrorism and International Criminal Jurisdictions**" at the **World Human Rights Forum in Nantes** from May 16-19, 2004, and sponsored by UNESCO.

Lastly, ASF France organised of visit for twelve lawyers from the Toulouse Bar Association to the international criminal jurisdictions at The Hague (International Criminal Court, International Court of Justice, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia). The lawyers from the Toulouse Bar Association were thus able to witness in practice how these institutions function – institutions that have become very familiar for our organisation.

Memory of the Rwandan Genocide

On the 10th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide, ASF France wished to commemorate this tragedy alongside several victims' organisations. The organisation had already participated in the defence of its victims in 1998.

The commemorative ceremonies, which the lawyers on mission in Rwanda in 1998 attended, were organised in collaboration with the organisation IBUKA and the *Collectif des cent jours*. On a national level, several members of the organisation spoke to the media about their experience.

ASF France's recognition confirmed

ASF France is increasingly confirming its role on an international level. Two new honours bear witness to its international recognition.

Special Consultative Status to the United Nations

February 4, 2004, ASF France was officially granted the status of Special Consultative Body to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

NGO's granted this status are authorised to send observers to public meetings of the Council and of its subsidiary bodies and to submit written reports pertaining to the Council's work. They may also advise the UN secretariat on subjects of common interest.

Training Conference Prize

November 22, 2004, ASF France was awarded the *Prix de la Conférence du Stage*, given by the Paris Bar Association.

The legal profession's recognition of ASF France, as embodied in the granting of this award, confirms the justness of our actions in favour of human rights and the need to continue our work.

Annexes

ASF FRANCE THANKS ITS ACTORS ...

Latin America Team

Co-Project Leaders:

MATHE, Françoise (Toulouse Bar Association)
BEN ACHOUR, Slim (Paris Bar Association)

Mission members:

ARIAS, Dora Lucy (Colombian lawyer)
AUTAIN, Xavier (Paris Bar Association)
DARRIEUX, Philippe (Magistrat)
FALLON, Maria Victoria (Colombian lawyer)
LOWY, Tamara (Paris Bar Association)
MAHECHA, Pedro (Colombian lawyer)
MALABRE, Jean-Eric (Limoges Bar Association)
ROUSSEAU, Benoît (Nantes Bar Association)
SAMPEDRO, Claudia (Colombian lawyer)
STERN, Michèle (Paris Bar Association)
TAELMAN, Pascale (Créteil Bar Association)
TERCERO, Flor (Toulouse Bar Association)

Project Assistant at the head office:

IRVING, Rebekah

Administrative Coordinator in Colombia:

MORA, Julia

Afghanistan Team

Co-Project Leaders:

SORKHABI, Kanechka (Jurist)
ROY, Dominique-Anne (ASF Québec)

Chargés de mission:

DELAHAIE, Annie (Toulouse Bar Association)
GOZZI, Marie-Hélène (Maître de conférence)
PALAZOT, Odile (Toulouse Bar Association)
POULAIN, Marie-Pierre (Paris Bar Association)
ROQUAIN, Sylvie (Toulouse Bar Association)

Russia Team

Project Leader:

MONGET-SARRAIL, Dominique (Créteil Bar Association)

Mission members:

MARTINEAU, Christine (Paris Bar Association)
FRANCES, Clémentine (Grenoble Bar Association)
MULLER-SARRALIER, Nathalie (Nanterre Bar Association)
LEREIN, Audrey (Grenoble Bar Association)

Logistical support

Local branch of ASF France in Grenoble:

GABION, Cécile
VILLEMAGNE, Sébastien
MOREL, Nathalie
DOMEYNE, Sandra
LEBLANC, Sidonie
DESCHAMPS, Régis

Cambodia Team

Project Leader:

JACQUIN, Martine (Paris Bar Association)

Mission members:

BOUILLON, Anne (Nantes Bar Association)
BELINGA, Odile (Bar Association Lyon)
CANTIER, Marie-Josée (Trainer)
DELAHAIE, Annie (Toulouse Bar Association)
DURAND, Isabelle (Toulouse Bar Association)
GAUTRY, Françoise (Brive Bar Association)
LAGRUE, Marianne (Paris Bar Association)
LOPEZ, Stéphane (Pau Bar Association)
MARTINEAU, Christine (Paris Bar Association)
PALAZOT, Odile (Toulouse Bar Association)
PATRY, Didier (Caen Bar Association)
ROGER, François (Magistrate)
ROQUAIN, Sylvie (Toulouse Bar Association)
SEZE, Ghislaine (Nantes Bar Association)
TACHET, Joël (Lyon Bar Association)

Syria Team

Project Leader:

BOUSQUET, Ludovic (Bordeaux Bar Association)

Mission member:

ALTIT, Emmanuel (Paris Bar Association)

Burundi Team

Project Leader:

VOISIN D'AMBRY, Marie-Paule (Dieppe Bar Association)

Chargés de mission :

DJAMMEN-NZEPA, Ferdinand (Toulouse Bar Association)
MULLER-SARRALIER, Nathalie (Nanterre Bar Association)
NOUGIER, Laure (Avignon Bar Association)

Nigeria Team



Project Leader:

MABILLE, Catherine (Paris Bar Association)

Mission members:

POULAIN, Marie-Pierre (Paris Bar Association)

THIEBAUT, Elise (Journalist)

BRUN, Pierre (ASF Québec)

LA ROCHELLE, Philippe (ASF Québec)

THERRIEN, Dominic (ASF Québec)

Professional Training Team

Members of the Training Committee:

TRUSSES-NAPROUS, Fabienne (Tarbes Bar Association)

CANTIER, Marie-Josée (Trainer)

DELAHAIE, Annie (Toulouse Bar Association)

GAUTRY, Françoise (Brive Bar Association)

LAMBERT DE CESSEAU, Caroline (Trainer)

MULLER-SARRALIER, Nathalie (Nanterre Bar Association)

NOUGIER, Laure (Avignon Bar Association)

ROQUAIN, Sylvie (Toulouse Bar Association)

International Criminal Court Team

Project Leader:

POULAIN, Marie-Pierre (Paris Bar Association)

Mission members:

ALTIT, Emmanuel (Paris Bar Association)

BESNIER, Pascal (Paris Bar Association)

DJAMMEN NZEPA, Ferdinand (Toulouse Bar Association)

PALAZOT, Odile (Toulouse Bar Association)

POULAIN, Marie-Pierre (Paris Bar Association)

Trainers:

CANTIER, Marie-Josée (Trainer)

DJAMEN NZEPA, Ferdinand (Toulouse Bar Association)

JACQUIN, Martine (Paris Bar Association)

MABILLE, Catherine (Paris Bar Association)

MATHE, Françoise (Toulouse Bar Association)

MULLER-SARRALIER, Nathalie (Nanterre Bar Association)

NOUGIER, Laure (Avignon Bar Association)

POULAIN, Marie-Pierre (Paris Bar Association)

VOISIN D'AMBRY, Marie-Paule (Dieppe Bar Association)

Board

President:

CANTIER, François

Vice Presidents:

MABILLE, Catherine (Paris Bar Association)

MATHE, Françoise (Toulouse Bar Association)

MAISONNEUVE, Jacques (Brive Bar Association)

Treasurer:

TRUSSES-NAPROUS, Fabienne (Tarbes Bar Association)

Assistant Treasurer:

TERCERO, Flor (Toulouse Bar Association)

Secretary:

DUPUY, Gérard (jurist)

Head Office

Head Administrative Officer:

MARI, Eric

Training Officer:

COLOMBIES MARTIN, Sophie

Communications Officer:

DO CARMO, Virginie

ROCKLIN, Nils

Secretary-Accountant:

EL BOUAZZAOUI, Najet

PACE, Angélique

Latin American Project Assistant:

ETCHEGOYHEN, Sophie

IRVING, Rebekah

Project and Finance Coordinator:

BOUZIGUES, Claire

COSTES, Etienne

Interns:

RUTAREMARA, Jariel

DESAUBLIAUX, Mathilde

EVIMA-VOUMA, Yann

GIRARD, Pascale

... ITS PARTNERS IN THE FIELD ...

In Latin America

- Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo
- ACADE UM
- National Federation of Public Defenders
- ILSA
- ASONAL Judicial
- Colegio de Jueces y Fiscales
- Universities where training events were held
- Colegios de Abogados in several cities

In Cambodia

- Cambodge Bar Association
- Professional training centre for Cambodian lawyers
- French Embassy
- Japanese Embassy
- Canadian Embassy

In Russia

- Memorial
- Moscow Bar Association
- Saint Petersburg Bar Association
- Médecins du Monde

In Burundi

- Burundi Bar Association
- Fédération nationale des unions de jeunes avocats (FNUJA)
- Centre international de formation des avocats francophones en Afrique (CI FAF)

In Nigeria

- Justice Ministry in the State of Bauchi, represented by Attorney General M. Habib Aliyu
- Legal Aid Council
- Nigerian Bar Association and the Abuja and Bauchi Bar Associations
- A team of local lawyers in Bauchi led by Dr. Abdulkadir Suleiman

... AND ITS FINANCIAL PARTNERS IN 2004

Thanks to the support of its financial partners and its members, ASF France continues to act for the defence of justice throughout the world.

Latin America

- French Foreign Ministry
- French National Bar Council
- Swiss Embassy in Bogota
- Bordeaux Bar Association
- Nantes Bar Association
- Lille Bar Association
- French Conference of Bar Presidents
- Paris Bar Association
- La Rochelle Bar Association

Cambodia

- Regional Council of the Pays de la Loire
- French Embassy in Cambodia
- Pau Bar Association
- Nantes Bar Association
- French Foreign Ministry

Syria

- Bordeaux City Hall

Russia

- French Prime Minister

Burundi

- French Prime Minister

Nigeria

- Paris Bar Association
- Women Defenders

Head Office

- Toulouse Bar Association
- Dijon Bar Association
- General Council of the Haute Garonne
- Regional Council of the Midi-Pyrénées
- French Ministry of Youth, Sport and Associations (FNDVA)
- Congrégation Divine Providence
- Balma City Hall
- SARL Cabinet Luc Expert
- Paris Bar Association

A final thank you to...

all of our private donors for their generosity.

ASF FRANCE'S CHARTER

ASF France reunites, on the basis of common values, lawyers, jurists and other professionals determined to act in favour of the respect of and the development of fundamental rights.

ASF France acts to promote the right of due process and access for all to knowledge of and to the defence of their civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights through the services of a free and independent lawyer, while dedicating particular attention to the rights and defence of groups and individuals most at risk.

ASF France strives to intervene anywhere a person is threatened in exercising his fundamental rights and who is unable to obtain the assistance of a free and independent lawyer.

ASF France bases its action on the presumption of innocence, the right for all to a free and independent lawyer and the lawyer's oath to provide legal defence with neither prejudice nor discrimination.

ASF France struggles for the recognition and respect of the lawyer's role, in accordance with the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, adopted by the United Nations Assembly at the Havana Congress on September 7, 1990, which define their freedom, independence, ethical obligations and the security safeguards and means necessary for carrying out their functions.

ASF France participates, through its existence and its actions, in the defence of fundamental rights, in the establishment and reinforcement of the Rule of Law and in the fight against impunity.

ASF France does not take the place of local lawyers nor their organizations, with whom ASF France has no intention of competing, but intervenes alongside them and with their consent, when they are facing difficulties as a result of their professional activity. ASF France establishes and maintains relations of professional solidarity with them. As such, ASF France acts solely when its action serves to reinforce local actors' skills and knowledge.

ASF France refrains from participating in any actions likely to compromise its independence, that of lawyers or its values and principles. As a result, the organization acts free from ties to any preexisting political, religious or philosophical groups.

All those who act in the name of **ASF France** wholly subscribe to the principles declared above and respect them in both their actions and declarations.