



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES France

« where the defence is not allowed to get a word »

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Edito

International current events have held us spellbound this summer and fall. First, the events in Tunisia, then, those in Libya, and now those in Syria have required our tireless efforts.

This level of activity is testimony to the recognition that we have gained.

Amidst this historic turmoil, another admittedly minor event will occur: my departure from the Presidency of Avocats Sans Frontières France.

It is neither due to weariness, nor to disillusionment.

But as we know, no one is justified in planting themselves firmly at the head of an organization.

After 15 years of involvement with the Avocats Sans Frontières movement and the creation of ASF France, the time has come for me to step aside.

The conditions for a smooth departure have been met.

Over the years, several of our directors have gained expertise as well as responsibility.

We have modified our statutes in order to allow two Vice Presidents, elected in April 2010, to prepare their bids for the position.

Director Hugo Jombwe and our employees at the headquarters are skillfully managing our everyday affairs.

I am leaving the presidency but will stay with the association, taking on any responsibilities entrusted to me by our newly elected representatives and remaining fully available to share my extensive experience with them whenever they may desire it.

Avocats Sans Frontières has developed into an international non-governmental organization that combines professionalism with volunteering, an association where fraternity and friendship reign in our service of solidarity.

For years now, we have been recognized on both a domestic and an international level by national and supranational institutions, public and private, that work for human rights, justice, and rule of law.

This was a dream that you helped me make reality and I am immensely grateful.

I urge all members of the association and those who support us to continue as a whole in our efforts to progress even further and contribute more, in a world with so much need for justice, to the protection of the rights of the weakest of us all.

François CANTIER, Président d'ASF France



MOBILISATION IN SUPPORT OF LAWYERS IN DANGER



INTERNATIONAL
OBSERVATORY
FOR LAWYERS

In the general context of the revolutions of the Arab Spring and the demands for liberty and democracy all over the world, lawyers are more and more often being exposed and taking a heavy toll.

This summer has been particularly difficult:

- **Syria:** an increase in harassment and arbitrary detention of Syrian lawyers within the framework of protest and current repression.
- **Iran:** the arbitrary arrest of Mr. Abdolfattah Soltani before the revolutionary Islamic Tribunal of Tehran and the general harassment of lawyers based on the causes they defend.
- **Burundi:** the arrest and detention of President of the Bar, Rufyikiri, Suzanne Bukuru, and François Nyamoya.
- **Georgia:** the conviction and incarceration of lawyer Ramin Papidze.
- **Vietnam:** the expulsion of Mr. Huynh Van Dong of the Dak Lak Bar.
- **Bangladesh:** the death threats against Mr. Shahanur Islam, human rights lawyer.
- **Central African Republic:** the persecution of Mr. Symphorien Balemby, wanted by police forces and forced into exile.
- **Azerbaijan:** the expulsion of Mr. Elchin Namazov with a risk of imprisonment.

In light of these events, the International Observatory for Lawyers remains mobilised. In addition to the warnings and material support brought to these lawyers, three missions were just led:

- **Georgia:** Presentation of the Observatory's report on the situation of the lawyers in Georgia, participation in the CCBE conference, field visits, support for the lawyers (mission led by Mrs. Anne Souleliac and Mr. Mikel Cordoba).
- **Turkey:** Judicial observation and support of lawyer Filiz Kalayci (mission led by Mrs. Natacha Fauveau-Ivanovic).
- **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** Support of lawyer Firmin Yangambi and monitoring of the judicial procedure (mission led by Mr. Richard Sedillot and the president of the Bar Claude-Joël Paka of Pointe-Noire).

More informations on: <http://www.observatoire-avocats.org> - +33 (0)5 34 31 78 79

DISCUSSION OF THE KHMERS ROUGE TRIALS IN CAMBODIA

The volunteer lawyers of the association represent over 1000 victims, free of charge, in the two trials currently underway:

- > **Duch trial:** Since March 2011 and the appeal hearings for the trial of the former director of the jail and torture centre S 21, the prosecutors are awaiting the Supreme Court's final decision.
- > **Trial of four Khmer Rouge leaders:** This trial deals with the living former leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime, Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary, and Ieng Thirith; ASF is providing the defence for 1135 victims who have instituted a civil action. The hearings began on June 27.

The August hearings allowed us to address the state of physical and mental health of the accused and any consequences regarding their aptitude to be judged or to attend the hearings.

Extraordinary Chambers
in the Courts of Cambodia

The first special international tribunal to make provision for the participation of the victims as plaintiffs. However, the lawyers of Avocats Sans Frontières France and the parties they represent are highly concerned by the infringements of these parties' rights. ASF is mobilising to guarantee that their rights will be fully exercised over the course of this trial.

Since May 2008, ASF France member international lawyers have taken turns each month in a volunteer effort with the permanent ASF France team and Cambodian lawyers to ensure the plaintiffs' defence.

THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT IN CAMBODIA CONTINUES



The 25 participating lawyers continue to provide services of legal aid and defence to vulnerable populations across the country.

In Sihanoukville in July 2011, they received training in using International Legal Instruments to protect human rights.

This training was led by Ghislaine Sèze (Bordeaux Bar) and Christine Martineau (Paris Bar), assisted by 4 Cambodian jurists.

Opposite: The Cambodian lawyers of the Judicial Aide Project doing a defence simulation exercise during the July 2011 training.

Testimonial: Isabelle FAURE-ROCHE, Brive Bar



For several years, the Corrèze Bar has supported Avocats Sans Frontières and its efforts in numerous countries to defend human rights wherever necessary, promoting rule of law, access to justice, the fight against impunity, and the right to a fair trial.

The Brive Bar has supported ASF France since 2003.

Thus the Bar upholds its commitment alongside ASF France to guarantee, on behalf of all lawyers, the legitimacy and the independence of its actions abroad, notably in Cambodia in the project, "Training of Cambodian Lawyers for Defense and Human Rights".

Striving to strengthen democracy, peace, and the defence of all is the very essence of our profession.

Thanks to our partnership, the Corrèze Bar proudly contributes to this.

Never will ASF France have enough support to continue its mission

"where defence no longer has the floor"!



LAOS: REINFORCEMENT OF THE LAWYER'S ROLE

Training activities for the new promotion of law students:

- ◆ September 2011 session - "The Role of the Lawyer", led by Fabienne Trusses Naprous (of the Tarbes Bar), Evelyne Boileau Bandomir (of the Clermont-Ferrand Bar) and Solange Feoketchang (of the Cameroon Bar), assisted by 5 Laotian lawyers.
- ◆ October 2011 session - "International Legal Instruments", led by Vincent Ricouleau (of the St. Nazaire Bar) and Henri Nayral de Puybusque (of the Toulouse Bar), assisted by 4 Laotian lawyers.

Project led in conjunction with the Laos Bar.



IN NIGERIA...

...The struggle against torture continues



The participants of the training - Lagos 2011

Two missions were carried out, in Kaduna (in July, led by Lionel Njeukam) and in Lagos (in September, led by Ivan Paneff, project leader and Michèle Stern of the Paris Bar).

They allowed for trainings of different legal agents (police, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, and prison employees) on the principles of the agreement to fight torture and increase association members' awareness of torture acts and other inhumane and degrading treatment.

These trainings had very positive results; various High Courts in the country, given impetus by the lawyers of ASF France, now sanction instances of torture perpetrated by members of security forces.

...the anti-death penalty project is being organized

The new project SALI *Saving Lives*, a part of the "Reinforcement of the Lawyer's Role in the Fight Against the Death Penalty" project, started its work in June.

The first internal training session, geared toward key informants of the project, took place in Abuja. Present were the lawyers of the *Nigerian Bar Association*, project partner, the intermediary lawyers working in the states for the project account and the ASF France staff of the Abuja office.

Lead by Jean-Sébastien Mariez and Mechtilde Carlier (both lawyers of the Paris Bar), this training focused on the methodology of the project and anti-death penalty argumentation.

The lawyers who underwent the training have since begun to act in the 8 target states to defend against cases of prisoners sentenced to death or incurring capital punishment.

The official ceremony for the project launch will take place in the forthcoming months and will allow for the integration of its new Nigerian partners, the *National Commission on Human Rights* and the NGO *Access to Justice* into the project.

END OF PROJECT: TRAINING FOR TRAINERS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA

Launched in 2009, the objective of this project was to form a pool of experienced trainer-practitioners, well-versed in law, technique, and pedagogy in Central and Western Africa.

The Western Africa sessions came to a close at the end of 2010, and the Central Africa sessions just ended after a training that brought together Cameroonian civil society organizations in Douala to focus on the theme, "Violations of women's and children's rights—which instruments of law to use to combat them?"

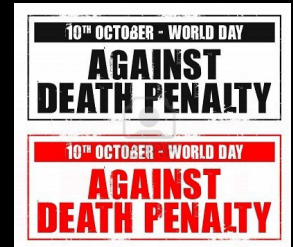
Even after the training sessions, ASF is continuing to build the network of defenders of human rights thus created. The final evaluation of the project is in progress.

A new project has been developed to take over and reinforce the gains made. It will concern the efficacy of the African system of human rights protection, bringing together the defenders trained in the program.



The participants of the training Douala - 2011

Last October 10th, **Avocats Sans Frontières France** joined **Amnesty International** and the **ACAT** to celebrate **World Day**.



Through its actions across the globe, **ASF France** is in league with efforts to stop the death penalty.

In 2004, ASF France supported **Hauwa Ibrahim**, Nigerian lawyer, in saving the life of **Amina Lawal**, a young woman sentenced to death by stoning for adultery.

Today, ASF is making special strides in Nigeria, where the association is leading a project to combat the death penalty.

Indeed, Nigeria is one of the largest African countries in which the death penalty is still practiced. A moratorium was imposed in 2004, but rumors of executions persist and the number of prisoners in death row has not stopped growing. Therefore, since January 2011, **Avocats Sans Frontières France** has led a project to strengthen the role of lawyers in the fight against the death penalty, called "Saving Lives".

Project financed by the European Union and led in partnership with the **Nigerian Bar Association**, the **National Commission for Human Rights**, and the NGO **Access to Justice**.

With the support of: European Commission, EuropeAid, FNUDFrench Agency of Development, International Organisation of La Francophonie, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Embassies of France abroad, French Prime Minister, National Council of bar associations, Conférence of Presidents, Clifford Chance (privileged partnership), Microsoft and numerous french bars, regions, départements and city councils.





NEWS AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES NETWORK

Strengthening of the Network

11 Avocats Sans Frontières associations from around the world (ASF Brazil, ASF Cameroon, ASF Congo, ASF France, ASF Guinea, ASF Mali, ASF Mauritania, ASF Democratic Republic of the Congo, ASF Senegal, ASF Sweden, and ASF Switzerland) came together at the end of October for a session of internal reporting and reinforcement of questions of common interest: organization of community life, set-up and execution of projects, coordination of missions in the field, etc.



Opposite: The representatives of ASF being received by the President of the Toulouse Bar

Events

The ASF network participated in the 6th platform for defenders of human rights, organized by the NGO Frontline Defenders in Dublin. The Network was represented by ASF Guinea and ASF Switzerland.

This participation allowed for the reinforcement of our links with other organizations committed to protecting the defenders of human rights.

Planned for the upcoming months are the participation in the Union International des Avocats (International Union of Lawyers) conference (in Miami in November) and a lecture at the International Bar Association Conference (in Nouakchott in December).

Urgent Missions

The urgent missions led by the ASF Network are continuing forward.

After the first mission led in Benghazi on behalf of the victims of Colonel Kadhafi's regime, others are planned for the upcoming weeks where the ASF network has been called upon, in Benghazi and elsewhere in the country.

You can follow current news of the Network by referring to Facebook ([Réseau Asf](#)) or by visiting the website www.asf-network.org



ASF
NETWORK

**NEXT MAJOR MEETING OF THE ASF NETWORK:
DECEMBER 8-10 IN BRAZIL - ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

ASF France Trainings

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scheduled trainings for the second semestre of 2011

Trainings for Trainers:

level I, «Fundamentals» november 9-12, Paris

level II, «Reinforcement» december 1-3, Toulouse

Technical training:

International Criminal Defense and the International Criminal Court november 16-19, Paris

Regional Systems (african and european) of Human Rights Protection november 24-26, Paris

Training programmes open to the public, fees paid by the FIF PL (inter-professional training funds for the legal professions), eligible for DIF (Individual Right to Training) funding, approved by the French National Bar Council and taught by specialised pedagogy experts and practitioners with experience of international criminal courts.



Find the calendar of all the activities of the association on avocatsansfrontieres-france.org

OCTOBER 19-22: NATIONAL CONVENTION OF LAWYERS IN NANTES

SATURDAY OCTOBER 29: GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR ELECTION FOLLOWED BY THE ASF FRANCE ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL IN TOULOUSE

OCTOBER 31- NOVEMBRE 4: IAYL CONFERENCE IN MIAMI

NOVEMBER 7: FRANÇOIS CANTIER CONFERENCE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY, PRESENTED BY HAUWA IBRAHIM, SAKHAROV PRIZEWINNER 2005

The head office team thanks you for your reading.

Director: Hugo MOUDI KI JOMBWE, Communication Officer: Elodie HERISSON, Financial Manager: Alexandre CROIZIERS de LACVIVIER, Coordinator for Asia: Séverine LACROIX, Coordinator for Africa: Julie CATEAU, International Observatory for lawyers' coordinator: Clemence POWJADE, ASF Network's coordinator: Anne LUTUN, Executive Assistant in charge of trainings: Emeline BARDON and Webmaster: Rémi BACQUE.