

Annual report 2014

Avocats Sans Frontières





Ms. Ameni Oussayaa Yahyaoui is a Tunisian lawyer. She is an observer with the Observation Network of Tunisian Justice, created by ASF, the Tunisian National Bar Association, and the Tunisian League for Human Rights © ASF/G. Van Moortel, March 2015

Established in Brussels in 1992, Avocats Sans Frontières is an international NGO specialising in defending human rights and access to justice. From Kinshasa to Tunis, from Kathmandu to Bujumbura, our teams defend victims of torture and prisoners held illegally, train local lawyers, magistrates and judges, and ensure that the voices of victims of international crimes are heard by courts.

www.asf.be





Children from a Dalit community in Nepal © N. de Oliveira, February 2014

Introductory comments

- 1) The graphs included in this report refer to the number of people made aware of their rights and the number of people who received legal advice and legal assistance between April 2014 and March 2015.
- 2) Definitions:
- **Legal aid:** Range of free legal services to inform, advise and assist people to make use of the law and administrative and judicial procedures.
 - **Legal advice:** Information and guidance given to a person in order to establish, on the basis of the information s/he has and the problem s/he faces, which legal provisions are applicable, and which legal channels exist to resolve the problem.
 - **Legal assistance:** Enables people seeking justice who cannot afford or are unable to obtain legal representation to assert their rights before the courts with the support of a lawyer or another legal professional with the power to represent them. This includes all actions and steps the lawyer has to take to provide his/her client with an effective defence before the law: consultations, filing complaints, petitions and submissions, correspondence with the parties, representation at hearings, service and enforcement of judgments.

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A lawyer lights a candle in memory of the victims of the terrorist attack at the Bardo Museum in Tunis © ASF/H. Gebes, March 2015

Francesca Boniotti, Executive Director of ASF (left) and Peter Van der Auweraert, President of the Board (right) present certificates to Sistor Havyarimana (Burundi), Jean Nsengiyumva (Burundi) and Dominique Kamuandu (DR Congo), in recognition of 10, 10 and 13 years' service with ASF, respectively © ASF/S. Degée, June 2015



Dear reader,

Following a lengthy political crisis punctuated by the assassination of multiple public figures, Tunisia became a full-fledged democracy by adopting a new constitution and holding peaceful legislative and presidential elections in 2014.

This reinforced Tunisia's image as the only Arab Spring country to have turned some of the hopes of three years ago into reality.

But the smallest North African state symbolises much more than that. It shows how the various features of justice affect all areas of our lives.

Tunisia is faced with a series of challenges related to respect for human rights, an effective justice system, and the rule of law. ASF and our partners are addressing these issues not only in Tunisia, but in all our countries of intervention.

It is impossible to build lasting peace without dealing with the crimes of the past. Operating alongside the international criminal justice system, transitional justice puts into effect the desire for truth, justice reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence for all victims of serious human rights violations committed under previous regimes.

Another area of work involves ensuring that people can make themselves heard. When people come across problems in their daily lives, such as obstacles to accessing to basic services necessary to realise their human rights, there must be justice and administrative mechanisms in place to enable people to not only solve their problems, but also to inform policy through their meaningful participation. This is designed to ensure enjoyment of human rights, necessary for improved living conditions.

Another essential element of justice includes the right to a fair trial in accordance with international standards for everyone. Without this guarantee, it is impossible to restore people's confidence in the justice system. Achieving this requires supporting reforms of criminal procedure and legislative frameworks, and improving the practice of judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

These are the challenges faced by our teams in Tunisia, as well as in other countries in North Africa and the Middle East, Central and East Africa and Asia.

Meanwhile, international issues such as natural resource exploitation, the human impacts of migration, and the fight against terrorism, cannot be addressed without respecting human rights of those most affected.

Against this backdrop, we continue to work with our local and national partners, with the support of our donors, with the members of our International Legal Network, and with all those who believe that access to justice should not just be an ideal, but a reality.

Francesca Boniotti, Executive Director

Acknowledgements

Avocats Sans Frontières thanks the following institutions and everyone who donated in 2014. Thanks to their vital support, vulnerable populations can access justice and enforce their rights.

On behalf of our beneficiaries, we sincerely thank you.



The Yalna reception centre for minors in Chad © ASF/L. Deramaix

Edgar Boydens, Vice-president of ASF, receives a cheque in support of ASF from Karel Van Alsenoy, former President of the Flemish Section of the Brussels Bar © NOAB, November 2014



INSTITUTIONAL DONORS:

- Australian Government (Australian Aid)
- Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
- Democratic Governance Facility
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland (Irish Aid)
- European Union
- Foundation to Promote Open Society
- MacArthur Foundation
- Ministry of European Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Open Society Institute
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- UK Government (UK aid)
- United Nations Development Programme
- U.S. Department of State - The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor
- Wallonie-Bruxelles International

BELGIAN BAR ASSOCIATIONS:

- Flemish Bar Council (OVB)
- French and German-Speaking Bar Council of Belgium (Avocats.be)
- Bar Association of Antwerp
- French section of the Brussels Bar
- Dutch section of the Brussels Bar
- Bar Association of Ghent
- Bar Association of Liège
- Bar Association of Oudenaarde
- Bar Association of Tongeren

LAW FIRMS:

- Bénichou Lawyers

OTHER INSTITUTIONS:

- Olné Local Authority
- Association of Legal Secretaries of the European Court of Justice
- Business and Professional Women Belgium - Antwerp Section
- ING Belgium (Solidarity Award)

OTHER PARTNERS:

- Media Planet
- Universal TV Media



Colonel 106 in the dock. On 15 December 2014, he was convicted of crimes against humanity by South Kivu Military Court © Local Voices/A. Bouvy



On 15 October 2014, the Rule of Law Centres pilot project was officially launched in Myanmar. Picture: Miriam Chinnappa, ASF Asia Representative, together with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chair of the Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee © ASF

Highlights of 2014

6 FEBRUARY:

ASF receives a Solidarity Award from bank ING, for our project supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Burundi.

10 FEBRUARY:

Official start of ASF's new project in Chad (see page 37).

7 MARCH:

Congolese warlord Germain Katanga is convicted by the International Criminal Court of complicity in war crimes and crimes against humanity. From the beginning of the case, ASF, in collaboration with Congolese associations, has been working with the victims to help them participate in the proceedings.

7 APRIL:

Twenty years ago, the Rwandan genocide began. In 1996, tens of thousands of genocide trials needed to be carried out, and the devastated judicial system needed to be reconstructed. ASF mobilised in response to the country's massive need for justice.

12 MAY:

Dominique Kamuandu, ASF Programme Coordinator in DR Congo, speaks at a forum for the support and protection of human rights defenders organised in Brussels by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (see page 49).

5 JUNE:

Monastir Court of First Instance rules against five companies for non-compliance with social legislation. The 311 workers wrongfully dismissed and supported by ASF and the FTDES are awarded compensation (see page 44).

8 JUNE:

The Flemish Bar Council (OVB) organises its annual race, involving almost 500 lawyers and their families. For each entry, the OVB paid two euros to ASF.

20 JUNE:

First training session for Moroccan journalists and lawyers to give them a better understanding of how accusations of defamation can be used to restrict freedom of expression, part of the *Kalima* project (see page 53).

24 JUNE:

ASF participates in and contributes to the International Conference on Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, organised jointly by the South African government, the International Legal Foundation, the UNDP and UNODC.¹

4 JULY:

The trial of Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa begins, President of the Association for the Protection of Human Rights and Incarcerated Persons in Burundi. ASF supports the lawyers defending him (see page 19).

30 JULY:

Presentation of ASF's report on the exploitation of natural resources in Uganda and its implications for human rights (see page 29).

2 OCTOBER:

Presentation of ASF's International Legal Network at a session of the 3rd Southeast Asia Pro Bono Conference, in Singapore, devoted to innovation in pro bono.

8 OCTOBER:

Launch of a campaign mobilising against preventive detention, organised by ASF in Burundi, with the Ministry of Justice (see page 13).

15 OCTOBER:

Launch of the Rule of Law Centres pilot project in Myanmar (see page 21).

10 DECEMBER:

On Human Rights Day, ASF launches the *Crossroads, Together for International Justice* campaign (see page 47).

15 DECEMBER:

South Kivu Military Court sentences Colonel Bedi Mobuli Engangela – known as Colonel 106 – to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity. Since 2011, ASF has been leading missions to collect accounts, identify victims, and raise awareness about participating in the legal proceedings (see page 31).

24 DECEMBER:

Official launch of ASF's first project in the Central African Republic.

¹ See also the Johannesburg Declaration: www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/2014_Johannesburg_Declaration_on_Implementation_of_UNPGLA.pdf



© Papy Jamaica Production, Burundi



Congratulations to Claude Nduwimana, from the University of Burundi, winner of the prize for the best legal dissertation
© ASF/L. Munezero, October 2014

FOCUS

Preventive detention: ASF rallies actors in the penal chain

28 October 2014

"Preventive detention must remain a last resort": This is the message of the broad campaign launched by ASF, together with the Ministry of Justice in Burundi. Citizens, lawyers, judges, and prison staff...this action concerns everyone involved in the penal chain, in order to ensure that an infraction does not mean that the individual concerned is automatically arrested and held in custody.

Preventive detention consists of depriving someone of their freedom, even before they have had the opportunity to appear in court. By taking the decision to imprison someone who is still presumed innocent, the judicial authorities perform an act that may have grave consequences. *"This goes beyond simply prohibiting the freedom to come and go as one pleases,"* says Sistor Havyarimana, Coordinator of the Access to Justice programme at ASF. *"The entire family and professional lives of the accused, their social relationships, and their physical and mental health are also at stake."*

According to recent estimates, around 3,750 people are in preventive detention in Burundi, which is nearly half of all prisoners. This situation prompted ASF, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, to rally the different actors in the penal chain around one principle: detention must remain a last resort.

"It is hard to reconcile preventive detention with the presumption of innocence," explains Léonard Gacuko, a university professor in Burundi and co-author of a study commissioned by ASF on the subject. *"For preventive detention to be compatible, it must be time-limited, because each day spent in detention makes the suspect look that bit less innocent, and detention that bit less preventive."*

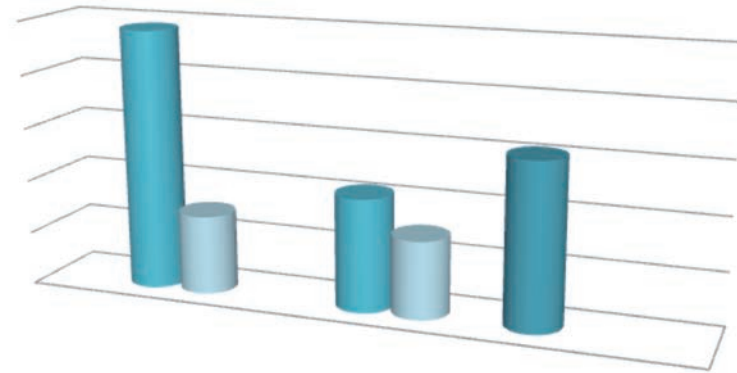
Over the course of two months, from 8 October to 5 December, various activities were organised around this issue involving lawyers, judges, prison governors, general prosecutors and civil society. The reason for this, as Anne-Sophie Oger, Representative of the Belgian Technical Cooperation team in Burundi, maintains, is that *"the stakeholders in the penal chain must stand united. One missing link in the chain calls it all into question; it affects the person being held in detention and the principle of freedom."*

"Our quest is certainly a sensitive one, but reconciling effective and responsible administration of justice with human rights represents the ideal that the judicial system must strive towards," adds Jean Bosco Bucumi, Coordinator for Institutional and Organisational Aid at the Ministry of Justice in Burundi.

For three days, representatives from the Ministry of Justice, judges, court presidents, lawyers, prison governors and prosecutors met to discuss the issues surrounding preventive detention in Burundi. Debates and television and radio series were broadcast to inform the population and raise awareness. Those in preventive detention in six provinces of the country have received systematic legal assistance before the courts. An essay-writing competition was also organised for students from the different law faculties of the universities, and a moot court competition for lawyers.

Activities in 2014 at a glance

LEGAL AID SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE POPULATION



	Made aware of their rights	Legal advice	Legal assistance
Men and women combined			6163
Men	9732	4227	
Women	2955	2902	

Men largely outnumber women as beneficiaries of sensitisation because a large part of these sensitisation activities took place in prisons for pre-trial detainees, the population of which is primarily male. Sessions to raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities of refugees and asylum seekers were held in urban settings, transit and refugee camps.

A total of 798 people in pre-trial detention in Burundi and DR Congo were released through the assistance of ASF and its partners.

PROJECT

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND RIGHTS OF ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

Partner: Office National de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides (ONPRA, or National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons)

Donors: European Union, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Duration: 3 years (December 2012 > December 2015)

Budget: €839,562

Training sessions:

- Lawyers and jurist members of ASF's pool, officials from ONPRA responsible for determining refugee status, members of the Advisory Commission for Foreigners and Refugees and the Appeals Committee: 3 training sessions on consultation and interview techniques and 2 training sessions on international protection of refugees (83 participants).
- Representatives of refugees: 6 training sessions on awareness-raising, orientation, advising refugees on their rights and ways and means of asserting them (118 participants).
- National authorities, magistrates, police officers and partners in the protection of the refugees: 10 training sessions on the rights of refugees, the asylum process and international protection (342 participants).

Studies and publications:

- Analysis of compliance with international standards of decisions determining refugee status.¹
- Analysis to inform the refugees about the legal system of divorce in Burundi.

Assistance for asylum seekers and refugees:

- Production of video spots to raise awareness, for World Refugee Day.²
- Conducting of a satisfaction survey among beneficiaries of assistance activities.³



Opening of a new legal advice centre for asylum seekers and refugees in Muyinga © ASF, April 2014



Chock Bin Numbe is a refugee in Burundi. He has opened a bakery in the camp where he is living © Papy Jamaica Production

¹ http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/BUR_AnalyseDSR_201409.pdf

² A student in Burundi [in French]: <http://youtu.be/U014x106S9Q>

A teacher in Burundi [in French]: <http://youtu.be/TxpF1Z1tXWs>

A baker in Burundi [in French]: <http://youtu.be/YF7ZUnUjLc>

³ http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/ASF_BUR_Enqu%C3%AAt%C3%A9-satisfaction-PIDAR-2013-2014.pdf

PROJECT

IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATION GROUPS

Partner: Bujumbura Bar Association

Donor: Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

Duration: 2 years (January 2013 > December 2014)

Budget: €1,000,000

Support for the Bujumbura Bar Association in developing legal aid:

- Secondment of personnel (responsible for developing legal aid) to assist the Bar Association.
- 1 training session on project cycle management.
- Support for the Bar Association in its fundraising strategy.
- Organisational diagnosis of the Bar Association, technical support for funding of legal aid services, evaluation of 2010-2013 strategic plan and proposals for a 2015-2018 plan.
- Organisation of 3 follow-up meetings of the Bar Association's Legal Aid Commission.
- Establishment of a shared pool of 35 lawyers:
 - Development of a curriculum for professional training and training of 6 lawyer trainers (see box).
 - 5 training sessions on various themes.
 - 2 coaching sessions on handling cases of preventive detention and economic, social and cultural rights.
- Research into implanting lawyers in the provinces.

A training course was held for six trainers from Bujumbura Bar Association from September to November 2014, leading to the development of training modules to be offered to and by lawyers from the Bar Association. This activity was carried out with the support of the Belgian Development Agency (BTC/CTB).

It took place in three phases:

1. The aim of the first phase was to improve trainers' teaching methods and to support designing of training modules.
2. The second phase provided technical support on module content: practice management, ethics and communication.
3. The third phase focused on the design and development of the actual modules.

This activity aimed to embed regular certificated training courses within the Bar Association for young trainee lawyers, as well as more experienced practitioners wishing to refresh their knowledge.

© BTC-CTB/Q. Courtois, January 2015



Supporting legal aid actors in the provinces of Gitega and Ngozi:

- Setting up provincial legal aid forums (consultation procedures among actors in the field at provincial level).
- Mapping of services and actors available.
- Development and implementation of 2014 provincial action plans.
- Capacity-building for Community and Family Development Centres, the Law Faculty and law students at the University of Ngozi, and prison legal departments.

Publication of a manual for detainees.¹

Production of 3 video spots on awareness-raising activities, legal advice and legal assistance.²

Conducting of 2 satisfaction surveys among a representative sample of project beneficiaries.

Campaign mobilising opposition to preventive detention organised with the Ministry of Justice:

- A study of legal practices around preventive detention.
- Organisation of a 3-day conference bringing together all actors in the penal chain.
- Broadcasting of radio spots and a radio series.
- Broadcasting of radio and TV debates.
- Organisation of an inter-university writing competition and a public speaking and mock court competition.
- Organisation of a closing ceremony.
- Production of a video capsule *Detention before judgment: at what cost?* showing ASF's intervention strategy in the area of preventive detention.³
- 14 awareness-raising sessions in prison (attended by 1,062 detainees).
- 11 legal advice sessions (231 beneficiaries).
- Legal assistance in 566 cases involving 754 defendants. Appeals were filed with the Court of Appeals in 144 cases and the cases reviewed; 63 defendants were granted pre-trial release and 84 defendants had their preventive detention upheld.

PROJECT

SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATIONALISATION OF THE NATIONAL LEGAL AID STRATEGY

Partners: Bujumbura Bar Association, Ministry of Justice

Donor: Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

Duration: 2 years (January 2013 > December 2014)

Budget: €519,146

ASF believes that improving access to justice requires the establishment of an institutionalised system of State legal aid. In Burundi, we have worked with national actors since 2011 as they reflect on their priorities and the establishment of effective and realistic mechanisms to help the population.

1 http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/ASF_BUR_Guide-du-d--tenu_2014.pdf

2 Legal aid and legal advice sessions in Burundi [in French]: <http://youtu.be/k8DEBUNXjmM>

Awareness-raising and diffusion of information about the law in Burundi [in French]: <http://youtu.be/lf3GJmUBgR8>

Legal aid and legal assistance in Burundi [in French]: <http://youtu.be/i5Azp83FiQA>

3 Detention before judgment: at what cost? <https://youtu.be/x4f3pthYgGM>

A number of essential steps were taken in 2014 to design a financially viable legal aid model enabling services to be delivered to remote populations as efficiently as possible. ASF conducted a feasibility study regarding the creation of a legal aid fund to secure financing for this. In parallel, a participatory process of reflection began, examining solutions to the general lack of lawyers in the provinces.

Following the restoration of the “Demand for Justice Group” within the Ministry, which considered it important to have an action plan in the area of access to justice, the national strategy proposed in 2012 was updated with ASF’s support, taking into account recent developments in the legal situation in Burundi. It is now awaiting validation by the government.

The legal aid activities planned for 2014 were carried out in conjunction with another ASF project financed by the Kingdom of Belgium. The activities for both projects have been combined in this report (see above: “Improving access to justice for vulnerable population groups in Burundi”).

PROJECT

PROMOTING THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROME STATUTE PRINCIPLES (CROSSROADS)

Donors: European Union, MacArthur Foundation (since June 2014 for Uganda only)

Duration: 2.5 years (October 2013 > April 2016)

Total budget: €1,900,000

- 1 training session on the principles and mechanisms of transitional justice, for members of Parliament, senators and representatives of Ministries of Justice, etc. (20 participants).
- Preliminary research into the integration of human rights standards in mechanisms for transitional justice.

Economic, social and cultural rights in Burundi: Practical manual for lawyers, legal professionals and other human rights defenders¹

In terms of laws, Burundi has made significant progress in integrating economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) in domestic law, not only by ratifying the relevant treaties and conventions, but also by adopting specific standards of domestic law designed to implement ESCR.

However, ESCR are seldom recognised as human rights, either in legal practice or in formulating and implementing policies. This situation represents a barrier to the realisation of these rights by individuals and their defenders (including lawyers), who rarely have the means to assert them. For this reason, ASF produced a manual for Burundian lawyers and jurists. This guide is meant to help them understand the application of ESCR within the legal framework in Burundi, in order to use them in their daily work as legal aid lawyers, helping to ensure that ESCR are fully promoted and realised.



Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa at the public prosecutor's office in Bujumbura on 5th June 2014
© T. Mazina

Restrictions on the space for public freedoms in Burundi

In the run-up to the recent elections, Burundi saw the introduction of severe restrictions on the space for public freedoms in 2014. Measures such as the arrest and detention of activists, the disbarment of the President of the Bar Association, and the passing of legislation curbing freedoms were taken in order to silence or weaken demands from civil society during this politically sensitive period.

Increasingly restricted in their freedom of expression and peaceful demonstration, members of Burundian civil society were supported and protected by ASF under the “Support and protection for lawyers and other human rights defenders (HRD)” project (see also page 49). A further series of interventions took place, including monitoring cases of legal assistance, observing trials, coaching and training HRDs (lawyers, journalists, members of civil society) and direct protection and risk prevention measures.

This formed the backdrop for ASF’s intervention in several particularly sensitive legal disputes.

For instance, ASF supported the lawyers responsible for defending Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa following his detention from May to September 2014. The President of APRODH (Burundian Association for the Protection of Human Rights and Incarcerated Persons) was accused of endangering the internal and external security of the State, as well as forgery and using forged documents. ASF issued reminders, both in Bujumbura and in Brussels, that legal restrictions on the work of HRDs should be applied with the utmost care by the Burundian authorities, and that the justice system should operate with the strictest respect for its independence and the law.

ASF, along with our partner, the East Africa Law Society, also observed the appeal by President of the Bar Association Isidore Ruyikiri against his debarment in January 2014. It noticed a series of irregularities regarding observance of the rules and procedures governing the legal profession and the jurisdiction of the Court.

At the end of 2014, ASF also joined FORSC (Forum for the Strengthening of Civil Society in Burundi) in bringing an administrative action against Bujumbura City Council. This challenged the legality of the municipal decisions banning the organisation of peaceful demonstrations by civil society. This case was a preview for the difficulties that Burundian civil society was to face in 2015.

¹ http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/ASF_BUR_GuideDESC_201411.pdf. This guide is financed by the UK Government (UK aid) and by the Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation



"We are only used to listening to lectures. Asking and answering questions can seem very aggressive to us", explained one of the participants in the training sessions © J. Stevens, November 2014



Certificates were awarded at a ceremony attended by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2015 © ASF

FOCUS

Rule of law education leading to social justice

17 February 2015

The need for justice education in a country just emerging from more than fifty years of military dictatorship is undoubted. "Rule of law" is a widely used but rarely understood term here. ASF trainers and other partners provided training in the framework of a UNDP-funded Rule of law Centres Pilot Project.

"How is this going to be sustainable?" asked Ji Mai (right on the picture) at the first team meeting of the project in Lashio, a multi-ethnic city in Northeastern Myanmar, not far from the Chinese border. As a member of the Kachin ethnic group and community activist and now the Project Administrator, she appreciated the work that ASF trainers Jake Stevens and Helen Yandell, volunteering law professionals from all over the world, and other international and Myanmar national partners had put into the three-month long curriculum that integrated rule of law principles, Myanmar law, and skills development. But she wanted to make sure that the curriculum, and the related community forums aimed at identifying relevant legal issues, would lead to substantive change.



Since then, the approximately eighty lawyers and civil society representatives, in Lashio and in the much larger city of Mandalay, have grappled with this and other questions. The interactive methodologies of the workshop are designed to engage participants in the content, but also to develop their analytical abilities. This was initially challenging for all concerned, especially due to a traditional education system and the legacy of fifty years of military rule. Project Manager Soe Moe Kyaw (left on the picture), a former HIV educator, remarked that, "We are only used to listening to lectures. Asking and answering questions can seem very aggressive to us." But many participants reported an interest in incorporating the methodologies in their own work, be it civil society trainings or mentoring new lawyers. They also expressed great appreciation for the content, such as alternative dispute resolution, equality before the law, and mock trial.

In the workshops and the public forums, and during project outreach meetings, many expressed a wish to move beyond internal community organising, and to engage governmental actors. Sai Kyaw Tun, from Meikwe Myanmar (a health and education civil society organisation), remarked, "We must have more workshops like these in other communities so that people understand their rights. But we must also have joint forums with police, judges and governmental officials so that we understand each other better." Similarly leaders of local LGBT organisations requested help designing strategies that would inform the public and the government of their concerns without triggering another police crack-down on their members. As initially planned, the workshops included governmental actors in the pilot, and there is hope that they will join in future iterations.

The current Rule of Law project involved two related and complementary activities: the three-month long 42 session workshop series and open-ended community forums. In Lashio, the forum topics included combating discrimination, expanding community legal education, and addressing drug addiction. The synergy between the two pillars of the project was obvious. Participants are taking their new-found skills and knowledge into their communities and workplaces to apply rule of law principles in everyday life at this crucial time in Myanmar's development.

Activities in 2014 at a glance

PROJECT

IMPLEMENTING PILOT RULE OF LAW TRAININGS CENTRES IN LASHIO AND MANDALAY CITY

Partners: Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative (BABSEA CLE), International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
Donor: United Nations Development Programme
Duration: 6 months (October 2014 > April 2015)
Budget: \$656,638

Opening of 2 Rule of Law Centres, in Lashio and Mandalay:

- Training programme for trainers (one month): 6 national trainers trained, along with 8 other participants (young lawyers, university professors, representatives of civil society and the UNDP).
- Design and organisation of a series of 13 training modules, in the form of 34 training workshops (78 participants from civil society organisations and academia, lasting a total of 12 weeks).
- The modules covered national and international definitions of the rule of law; the Myanmar legal system; evidence; equality before the law; protection of minorities; alternative dispute resolution; civil and criminal law; raising awareness of the law, etc.
- Organisation of 2 community roundtables in Lashio and Mandalay.

Seven members of ASF's International Legal Network were involved in setting up the project (for more information, see the article on page 59).



Malati Rajbanshi Lama – with her daughter Jasmin Lama – brings her case to a legal aid clinic supported by ASF © N. de Oliveira, February 2014

ASF
in
Nepal



© N. de Oliveira, February 2014



Nepalese women's quest to claim rights

23 April 2014

In Nepal, when a man abandons his wife and family it is common for the woman to be left destitute. Women are systematically denied their rights under the law, especially property rights, inheritance and alimony. ASF, in partnership with local bar associations, plays a crucial role in not only empowering women's awareness of the law to claim their rights but also accompanying them through the legal processes.

In the Nepalese society, when a woman gets married, she is expected to renounce her own family and adopt her husband's family. She is dependent on this new family who becomes her sole source of livelihood, social security and social status.

Malati Rajbanshi Lama (see photo) lives in a remote village, some 100 km from the capital city of Kathmandu. "After my husband left me, I never received any financial support from him either for me or for my children. My in-laws refuse to recognise my marriage and deny me access to my house", she recounts. "My children used to go to school but now they cannot do so as education is very expensive".

With the intervention of a lawyer from a District Bar Unit supported by ASF, Ms. Lama learned about her rights and legal procedures. In the nearest legal aid clinic, she received legal counselling and felt empowered to file a case in the local court.

Ms. Lama now lives in a government safe house with her three children and gets daily wages, just enough to support her family. Her case has been filed for partition of property, alimony and marital status recognition which, in Nepal, is important for registration and citizenship rights for Ms. Lama and her children. She now awaits the court decision which should improve her living conditions: "We expect a decision from the court in the next five months. It is long but my lawyers are optimistic".

ASF's legal awareness activities such as mobile clinics to village development communities and radio sensitisation programmes aim at providing information about the law and the legal services available for people in vulnerable situations, like Ms. Lama.

Other ASF objectives include increasing the demand for legal services offered by the Districts Bar Units, strengthening the capacities of Bar Units and individual lawyers to assisting vulnerable and marginalised people.

Over one million people have been reached through legal awareness program like radio programs, school programs and mobile clinics, in five districts in the country. 1,277 people directly benefited from legal advice, legal assistance and, where applicable, representation in court.

ASF has worked in close partnership with the Nepal Bar Association and two other organisations: the PPR (Forum for Protection of People's Right) and the LACC (Legal Aid & Consultancy Center).

Activities in 2014 at a glance

PROJECT

IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATION GROUPS

Partners: Legal Aid and Consultancy Center (LACC), Nepal Bar Association (NBA)

Funding: funding for the project from the Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, was finalised on 31 December 2013. The four months of activities in 2014 were financed by the British Government (UK aid). The project ended on 30 April 2014, after 36 months of activity.

Budget 2014: €18,800

■ Organisation of 3 workshops on access to justice for victims of discrimination:

- 1 workshop on developing strategies to tackle discrimination based on caste and gender, with the NBA (50 participants, mainly representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the National Human Rights Commission, the Supreme Court, the Dalit community and civil society organisations).
- 1 workshop on social change and inclusion as means of tackling discrimination, with the NBA and FeDO (Feminist Dalit Organisation) (50 participants, including lawyers, law students, human rights activists and representatives of the communities affected).
- 1 workshop on the implementation of antidiscrimination laws (50 participants, including representatives from police forces, the courts, the Legal Aid Committee, etc.). Following this workshop, a *Declaration on tackling discrimination by cooperation between actors* was submitted to the NBA to serve as a tool in lobbying the government.

PROJECT

PROMOTING THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROME STATUTE PRINCIPLES (CROSSROADS)

Partner in Nepal: Informal Sector Service Centre

Donors: European Union, MacArthur Foundation (since June 2014 for Uganda only)

Duration: 2.5 years (October 2013 > April 2016)

Total budget: €1,900,000

- 1 workshop on the ratification of the Rome Statute, for members of the Parliamentary committee on human rights.
- Design of a training module on the law and procedure of the International Criminal Court; legal representation; advocacy techniques.



ASF
in
Uganda

Raising awareness about transitional justice in rural communities
© ASF/K. Hefti-Rossier



A billboard promoting peace in Kotido District in Uganda
© IRIN/K. Carlson

FOCUS

ASF contributes to transitional justice

24 June 2014

Since 2008, the security situation in Uganda has stabilised. A transitional justice process was launched to deal with the numerous crimes committed by the Resistance Lord's Army. ASF continues to play a key role in the development of the country's transitional justice.

Uganda's transitional justice policy is a strategic policy guide intended to enable the Government of Uganda to handle post-conflict justice and accountability matters for victims of gross human rights violations and international crimes.

In a document presented in June 2014,¹ ASF made recommendations to the Government of Uganda and others stakeholders for the integration of a comprehensive, holistic and mutually reinforcing process; this process should contribute to the realisation of the broader goals of truth, justice, accountability and reparation for victims of gross human rights violations and international crimes.

"Any comprehensive transitional justice process should address the root causes of conflict; this is vital if we want each category of victim to be handled appropriately. This is why we recommend the creation of an Independent Transitional Justice Commission, whose mandate will be to regulate the overall transitional justice process", explains Brenda Peace Amito, ASF Programme Officer in Uganda.

The ASF publication was shared with civil society organisations, representatives of the governmental justice institutions, academics, private legal practitioners, and many others involved in some way in developing the transitional justice policy.

This launch was presided over by the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of the Uganda Parliament, Hon. Jovah Kamateeka, who praised ASF for its commitment to the policy emphasising the urgent *"need for the policy to be passed"*. This was confirmed during the roundtable discussion by the Deputy Head of the International Crimes Division of the High Court of Uganda, Lady Justice Elizabeth Nahamya, who also applauded ASF for the work we are doing towards making the policy a *"reality"*.

"We hope that our recommendations will help all stakeholders in the process to develop an enabling law that adequately achieves the overall goals of the policy. In particular, we wish that victims' groups and NGOs will be actively involved in designing and implementing transitional justice mechanisms. These actors have a strong connection with the war affected communities and their input will be crucial for any truth telling process", observes Ms. Amito.

ASF's publication will be shared with all policy developers currently working on the draft policy, especially the Justice and Order Sector of the Government of Uganda who have been mandated with coming up with the final draft of the policy before its operationalisation into law.

1 http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ASF_UG_TJ-Linkages-Paper_201308.pdf

Activities in 2014 at a glance

PROJECT

MOBILISING LAWYERS TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF UGANDANS

Partner: Uganda Law Society (ULS)

Donor: Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

Duration: 2 years (August 2012 > July 2014)

Budget: €400,000

Information and dialogue sessions with lawyers were organised in 5 districts, with 57 lawyers taking part. Over the entire course of the project, 31 lawyers were involved in legal aid activities on a pro bono basis.

- Conducting of a study of pro bono practices.
- Monthly consultation meetings between legal aid providers and pro bono lawyers in areas covered by the project.
- Organisation of a pilot program for pro bono legal services in courts in the Central Region (Nabweru, Makindye and Buganda Road Courts): overall, 45 lawyers, coached and supported by ASF and the ULS assisted 761 people.
- A total of 804 students attended lectures on legal aid, organised at 7 universities.
- A total of 10 training sessions were organised for lawyers from the ULS (trial strategy, public interest litigation, alternative dispute resolution, active listening, etc.).
- Sessions for the exchange of views on torture, human trafficking, preventive detention and international justice, attended by 57 representatives of the justice sector.
- 1 training session on taking on emblematic cases (15 members of ASF staff and the ULS).
- 1 workshop on solutions to the problems of illegal pre-trial detention, in conjunction with JLOS, representatives of Buganda Road Court and the ULS.

PROJECT

PRESUMED INNOCENT BEHIND BARS: THE PROBLEM OF LENGTHY AND UNLAWFUL PRE-TRIAL DETENTION IN UGANDA

Donor: Australian Government (Australian Aid)

Duration: 1 year (April 2013 > April 2014)

Budget: AUD100,000

- Creation, training and follow-up of a pool of 16 lawyers specialising in criminal law, to provide legal advice and assistance to those held in pre-trial detention at Luzira prison (128 beneficiaries throughout the project).
- Position paper on lengthy pre-trial detention: analysis of the causes of the phenomenon and recommendations.¹
- Organisation of a workshop on the mechanisms for combating pre-trial detention attended by representatives of the District Coordinating Committees, the Justice Law and Order Sector and the Uganda Law Society (33 participants).



Workers at a mine in Northeast Uganda © ASF

PROJECT

PROMOTING THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROME STATUTE PRINCIPLES (CROSSROADS)

Donors: European Union, MacArthur Foundation (since June 2014 for Uganda only)

Duration: 2.5 years (October 2013 > April 2016)

Total budget: €1,900,000

- Technical assistance to the Justice Law and Order Sector in drafting the rules of procedure of the International Crimes Division (ICD: court with the competent jurisdiction to deliver justice for international and transnational crimes committed in Uganda).
- 3 workshops for the finalisation of the rules of procedure of the ICD by judges, a technical committee of experts and representatives of the First Parliamentary Counsel.
- 1 training session on the rules of procedure of the ICD for lawyers, legal professionals and civil society organisations (60 participants).
- Distribution of the study *Towards a comprehensive and holistic transitional justice policy for Uganda: Exploring linkages between transitional justice mechanisms* (see article on page 27).¹
- 1 workshop on transitional justice for Members of Parliament, in collaboration with the Ugandan Coalition for the International Criminal Court.
- Support for strategic litigation concerning the Amnesty Act (following consultations with 450 victims in the sub-regions of Teso, Lango and Acholi).

PROJECT

EXPLORING THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLOITATION & EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES IN UGANDA

Donor: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland (Irish Aid)

Duration: 10 months (November 2013 > August 2014)

Budget: €20,000

Carrying out and distribution of a baseline study documenting cases of exploitation of natural resources in the districts of Hoima and Moroto and their human rights implications: *Human rights implications of extractive industry activities in Uganda.*²

- Distribution among the affected communities during a meeting with community representatives and local authorities (30 participants).
- Organisation of 4 community dialogues in the villages of Nyamasoga, Bukona, Katooke and Kyapuloni (230 participants).
- Radio broadcast on Nenah FM.
- 1 roundtable bringing together industrial actors and donors (33 participants).

PROJECT

PROMOTING MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND MEN IN THE SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF UGANDA'S OIL AND GAS SECTOR

Partner: Global Rights Alert

Donor: Democratic Governance Facility

Duration: 2 years (July 2014 > June 2016)

Budget: €162,361

- 1 training session for lawyers on human rights in extractive industries.
- 1 research project into compliance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by extractive industries in Uganda, in particular the *Resettlement action plan*.

From September 2013 to March 2014, Human Rights Network Uganda (HURINET-U) seconded personnel to ASF in support of its projects, as part of the South-South International Exchange Programme.

¹ http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ASF_UG_TJ-Linkages-Paper_201308.pdf
² http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/ASF_UG_extractivesectorhrimplications.pdf

¹ This activity was co-financed by the project "Mobilising lawyers to defend the rights of Ugandans"



In order to remain anonymous, victims testifying during the trial have their identities concealed © Local Voices/A. Bouvy, 2014

ASF
in Democratic
Republic
of Congo



Colonel 106 before the judges in Kalehe (South Kivu)
© Local Voices/A. Bouvy, 2014

FOCUS

Conviction of Colonel «106» and risk of reprisals

15 December 2014

ASF welcomes the decision by the South Kivu Military Court on 15 December 2014 to sentence Colonel Bedi Mobuli Engangela, known as Colonel "106", to life in prison for crimes against humanity. The former high-ranking officer and warlord is one of those responsible for the violence committed in South Kivu between 2005-2007 which affected over 1,000 civilian victims. This sentence sets a clear precedent in the fight against impunity. However, ASF remains worried about the risk of reprisals against the victims who testified against their persecutor during the trial.

Arrested in 2007, the Colonel has been the subject of a criminal investigation since 2011, accused not only of having led members of his militia to commit acts that constitute crimes against humanity (including murder, rape, serious infringements of physical or mental health and imprisonment), but also of having personally committed such crimes. The name "106" refers to the warlord's number on the list drawn up by the United Nations Security Council which calls for the arrest and trial of a number of people responsible for international crimes.

His trial started on 11 August 2014. Of the 1,181 victims that ASF met, 753 were classed as civil parties and 83 were able to testify at the hearings. Their testimonies revealed the horror of the crimes committed during attacks on more than twenty villages.

The victims were kidnapped and forced to carry the goods that had been taken to the militia's headquarters tied together with a rope "like slaves". "It is like we were the Colonel's private property", recounted one victim. "We're testifying so that if other women go through the same thing, they will have the courage to testify", stated another survivor before the start of the trial.

This decision comes seven years after the events, sending a strong message from the Congolese justice system to other violent criminals. "This shows that these crimes will not go unpunished", says Dominique Kamuandu, ASF International Justice Coordinator in DR Congo.

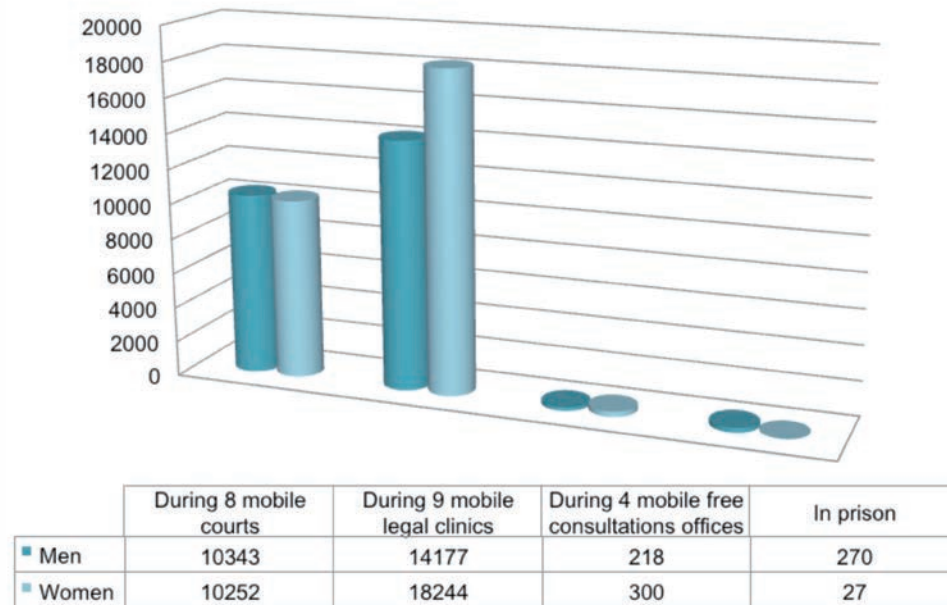
The Military Court also decided to grant reparation to victims on the basis of the crimes they suffered. This is an important stage in restoring not only dignity to victims, but also their futures. "We now expect the Congolese State to honour this verdict that shows solidarity with victims, and to pay them the amounts agreed (between USD 500 and 15,000 depending on the crimes committed)", stated Dominique Kamuandu.

The courage of the victims and witnesses goes together with their fear of reprisals. "Those complicit in the crimes committed and their accomplices may seek to punish the victims for their participation in the trial", warned the ASF Coordinator. "We call on the Congolese authorities to put in place all the necessary measures to ensure their protection."

In cooperation with Congolese civil society organisations since 2011, ASF has been leading missions to collect accounts, identify victims and raise awareness about participating in the legal proceedings. 753 people were classed as civil parties and granted proxy to a collective of lawyers provided by ASF to represent their interests. ASF took responsibility for moving and housing the victims who agreed to testify, using utmost vigilance with regard to their safety.

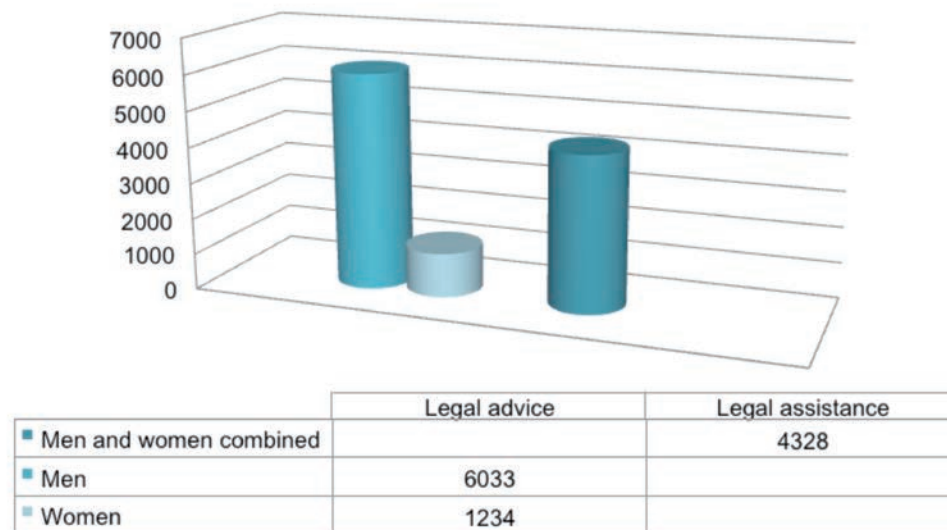
Activities in 2014 at a glance

PEOPLE MADE AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS



These figures do not include listeners to weekly hour-long *BCG live* radio programmes, during which a lawyer, a jurist or another legal professional explains and discusses legal themes.

PEOPLE BENEFITING FROM LEGAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE



Men largely outnumber women as beneficiaries of legal advice and assistance because a large part of these sensitisation activities took place in prisons for pre-trial detainees, the population of which is primarily male.

PROJECT

BRINGING JUSTICE TO PEOPLE IN EASTERN DR CONGO (*UHAKI SAFI*)

Partners: Bar associations of Bukavu (South Kivu), Kisangani (Eastern Province) and Goma (North Kivu)

Donor: European Union

Duration: 3 years (October 2012 > October 2015)

Budget: €5,000,000

Support for the bar associations and civil society organisations (CSOs) in their activities to provide information and legal assistance to those seeking justice¹:

- Assistance with the organisation of a seminar to reflect on the role of bar associations in delivering legal aid (9 bar associations and 3 unions represented, as well as the National Association of Lawyers (Ordre National des Avocats).
- 1 workshop to create a development plan for the Kisangani and Bukavu Bar Associations.
- Practical support for partner bar associations.
- 21 meetings of steering committees of Free Advice Centres (BCG) in Bukavu, Goma and Bunia.
- Review of the accounting and financial management of the Goma Bar Association.
- 1 training and coaching session in accounting and financial management for treasurers of partner bar associations, lawyers involved in their management, office staff and technical coordinators.
- 1 training session in monitoring tools for BCGs, in particular the use of databases.
- 4 training sessions on the quality of advice, the referencing mechanism, the protection of the women and minors, gender-based violence, and preventive detention, for lawyers and defence counsels in Goma, Bukavu and Bunia (93 participants).
- Extension of monthly legal advice sessions to peripheral prisons (Kavumu, Uvira and Kalehe for South Kivu, Beni and Butembo for North Kivu, Mahagi and Aru for the district of Ituri in the Eastern Province).
- Design of 5 modules to raise awareness around inheritance, children's rights, property rights and access to land, how the justice system functions, and certificates of indigence.
- Technical support for 5 CSOs for awareness-raising and victim support and collecting data on international crimes and serious violations of human rights in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri.
- Financial support for these organisations to carry out data collection, legal advice and awareness-raising missions regarding the impact of justice on the fight against impunity (11 missions relating to cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity: Sadala Morgan, Kitchanga, 106 - see article on page 31, Mirenzo and Birungurungu/Lulimba).
- 3 training sessions for CSOs on what constitutes an international crime and psychological care for victims, among other subjects (51 participants).
- Mapping of CSOs operating in rural areas on the theme of gender-based violence (GBV), identification of their needs, assistance with the organisation of awareness-raising sessions for community leaders, and organisation of 1 training session on the relation between GBV and economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) (18 participants).
- Design of a module to raise awareness among community leaders about GBV and ESCR.
- Mapping of the CSOs involved in monitoring trials and organisation of 1 training session on the subject (18 participants).

Legal assistance for victims of serious crimes:

- Legal representation of victims of international crimes in 5 cases (Minova, 106, Kitchanga, Shabunda/Lenine and Mambasa).
- Case "The Prosecutor vs Bosco Ntaganda" before the International Criminal Court: visits to Kobu and Nyangaray to complete certain victims' cases.
- Selection of 4 lawyers to create a pool specialising in the fight against GBV and 4 lawyers for a pool specialising in the fight against torture.



The mobile free consultations office in Katana (South Kivu)
© ASF/B.Langhendries, April 2014

¹ During the previous year, 3 free advice centres (BGC) were opened in Bunia, Bukavu and Goma (between October and November 2013). Legal advice is dispensed there 3 times a week. Legal advice is dispensed twice a week in central prisons. Mobile legal clinics are organised in rural areas.

- 1 training session for lawyers and defence counsels on unlawful pre-trial detention, women in detention and unlawful detention of children (93 participants).
- 1 training session for lawyers on linkage between GBV and ESCR (25 participants).
- Publication of baseline of ESCR and GBV in the territory of Idjwi/South Kivu.¹

Support for the administration of justice:

- Support for the organisation of 7 mobile courts (see article below).
- Support for 4 missions serving and enforcing judgments.
- Production of a guide on BCG operations, and a practical guide to civil and military mobile courts, with the PARJ (Support programme for strengthening justice).

Ten years of mobile courts in DR Congo

Four times the size of France, the Democratic Republic of Congo has around one lawyer for every 7,500 inhabitants. Most of them are based in towns and cities, whereas the majority of the population live in the countryside, sometimes several hundred kilometres from the nearest court.

In 2004, ASF began to support the organisation of mobile courts based on the provisions of article 67 of the Code on Organisation and Jurisdiction (*Code de l'organisation et de compétence judiciaires*) according to which, if they consider it necessary for the proper administration of justice, courts may sit in any location within their jurisdiction.²

The principle is to bring justice to those places where it is missing, together with all actors involved: judges, magistrates, clerks, etc. The whole court moves to the countryside and sits there for several weeks. In practice, this involves arranging transport and accommodation for personnel, finding a place to hold hearings, renting sound systems to facilitate attendance by local residents, paying court costs to encourage people to bring civil actions, and enabling those seeking justice to become involved in settling their disputes. Mobile courts entail major logistical and technical challenges:

- Several partners need to be involved to ensure that a mobile court dispenses high-quality justice. For example, bar associations are needed to enable legal representation of the parties at the trial; technical and financial partners need to divide responsibilities and tasks between them so as to avoid potential conflicts of interest.
- Mobile court hearings need to be planned reasonably far ahead, so the court can organise itself in good time, and the local people can be informed of its arrival.
- Harmonisation of practices by the Judicial Council and improved state funding are needed.

In ten years of support, ASF has acquired extensive experience in this area, enabling us to develop methodologies, tools and good practices which we share with Congolese judicial partners and other international organisations supporting these mobile courts.

For example, with the Appeal Courts of North and South Kivu and the Eastern Province, ASF organises roundtable conferences for all actors involved to facilitate coordinated planning of hearings and harmonise their organisation and funding. This includes arranging front-line legal advice and legal awareness-raising activities alongside hearings, and ensuring that the judgments delivered are enforced.³

In spite of these challenges, the relationship between citizens and the justice system has undeniably changed for the better in places where mobile courts sit. This is demonstrated by the high rate of participation in hearings among local residents and their realisation of the importance of justice as a mechanism for peaceful resolution of disputes. It is essential to support mobile courts to enable remote populations to access – sometimes for the first time – justice based on written law, to stop customary courts which wrongfully and unlawfully continue to deliver judgments to the detriment of those seeking justice, and to establish the rule of law.



Mobile court in Sake (North Kivu)
© ASF/C. Kinja, December 2013

PROJECT

PROMOTING THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROME STATUTE PRINCIPLES (CROSSROADS)

Donors: European Union, MacArthur Foundation (since June 2014 for Uganda only)

Duration: 2.5 years (October 2013 > April 2016)

Total budget: €1,900,000

- Monitoring the work of the Political, Administrative and Legal Committee of the National Assembly, with the International Centre for Transitional Justice and Parliamentarians for Global Action.
- Exploratory missions in Upper and Lower Uele and Bas-Congo, to assess the state of justice and possibilities for carrying out activities and organising awareness-raising sessions in these areas.
- 1 training session for civil society organisations on evidence gathering and measures to protect victims and witnesses.
- 7 missions for awareness-raising among victims of international crimes, data collection and obtaining powers of attorney so that they can be represented by lawyers in the Bosco Ntaganda, Colonel Amuri Mpia and Yalisika/Siforco cases.
- 1,350 victims benefited from legal assistance in relation to 6 cases pending before the Congolese courts.
- 2 5-day training courses for lawyers from the ASF pool on the theme of the pre-trial phase: communication techniques, active listening, the role of the lawyer (47 participants).
- Conducting a study of case law on the implementation of the Rome Statute in DR Congo.¹
- Analysis of the bill for the establishment of joint benches to try international crimes.²

PROJECT

CONTRIBUTING TO CONSOLIDATION OF THE RULE OF LAW IN DR CONGO BY COMBATING MASS ILLEGAL PRE-TRIAL DETENTIONS (NA BOSEMBO TOKOKANI)

Partners: Ordre National des Avocats (National Association of Lawyers), Bar Associations of Kinshasa Gombe, Kinshasa Matete, Matadi and Mbandaka

Donor: Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

Duration: 2 years (May 2014 > April 2016)

Budget: €1,084,282

The project was officially launched on 1 May 2014 in Kinshasa. The Mbandaka office opened in May 2014 and the Matadi one in October 2014. The first three months of the project were largely dedicated to recruiting national and expatriate staff, and carrying out a baseline study on the three geographical areas covered by the project. The following four months were spent formalising implementation tools and project monitoring tools, as well as negotiating collaboration agreements with the different partners.

- Support for 5 Free Advice Centres (BCG): 2 in Kinshasa (Bar Associations of Matete and Gombe), 2 in Bas-Congo (Matadi and Boma) and 1 in Mbandaka. These BCGs will work directly in the prisons targeted by the project (Kinshasa, Mbandaka and Matadi central prisons and Boma prison).
- Setting up a pool of 60 lawyers to provide legal assistance to persons in preventive detention through the BCGs (20 lawyers for Kinshasa Matete, 20 for Kinshasa Gombe, 10 for Matadi and Boma, 10 for Mbandaka).
- 1 training session for lawyers on preventive detention and legal assistance for persons in preventive detention (80 participants).
- 1 training session on awareness-raising techniques in prisons (40 lawyers and 20 students from the Law Faculty of the University of Kinshasa).
- Implementation of the memorandum of understanding with the National Association of Lawyers for the establishment of a Legal Aid Commission.
- Organisation of a workshop to launch the project in Mbandaka, bringing together all actors working on issues of detention, and opening of discussions with a view to establish a Provincial Commission made up of institutional actors and civil society regarding detention.

ASF also administers the Protection Trust Fund, which provides psychosocial support and legal assistance for victims of torture in DR Congo. This fund is financed by the embassies of France, the United Kingdom and Switzerland in DR Congo.

¹ http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/ASF_RDC_UAFI_EtudeDESC-VBGPym%C3%A9s_2014.pdf

² Principle reaffirmed by Organic Law No 13/011-B of 11 April 2013 concerning the organisation, operation and competency of the judiciary.

³ Once the judgments have been served by the clerks and an appeal deadline of one month has passed, a mission must be organised to enforce the final judgments.

¹ http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/ASF_IJ_Mise-en-oeuvre-judiciaire-SDR_2014.pdf

² http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/ASF_RDC_Analyse-du-Projet-de-loi-modifiant-et-compl--tant-la-loi-du-11-avril-2013_201506_FR.pdf



© C. Maon, May 2014

Civil society is rallying together for better access to justice

Despite the reforms undertaken in recent years at a judicial and legislative level, the citizens of Chad still encounter numerous obstacles when trying to obtain access to justice. The population know little about their rights; customary rules are still very influential; there are few lawyers and almost all of them are based in the capital. Given this situation, several civil society organisations (CSOs) are taking action: they educate people about their rights, offer them free legal advice, assistance before the courts, and/or mediation services. ASF supports three of these CSOs in their efforts to protect human rights. These CSOs carry out complementary activities and cover different geographical areas.

Association des Femmes Juristes du Tchad (AFJT or Women Lawyers' Association of Chad)

- Project supported by ASF: "Improved access to the law and to justice for vulnerable people in rural areas".
- Principal activities of the project: Awareness-raising among women and children about their rights and duties and about the judicial system, legal advice, assistance with judicial and non-judicial matters, training of staff in counselling centres, of criminal investigation police officers and traditional authorities (project management, listening techniques, judicial procedures, gender-based violence, children's rights, etc.).
- Locations include: Moulkou, Kim, Guidari, Dono-Manga, Béré and Lamé.

Association pour la Promotion des Libertés Fondamentales au Tchad (APLFT or Association for the Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms in Chad)

- Project supported by ASF: "Contribute to an improvement in the rule of law and the administration of justice in Chad".
- Principal activities of the project: Legal advice and legal assistance, monitoring in prisons and detention centres, information and awareness-raising for the population about the law, training criminal investigation police officers and traditional authorities.
- Locations include: N'Djamena, Koundoul, Bongor, Laï, Moissala and Abéché.

Public Interest Law Centre (PILC)

- Project supported by ASF: "Legal advice and assistance for women, children and disadvantaged persons".
- Principal activities of the project: Listening, advice and support in the courts, production of a report on the establishment of a legal insurance scheme, retraining of paralegals, training.
- Locations include: Moundou, Bébédjia, Miandoum, Doba, Koumra and Sarh.

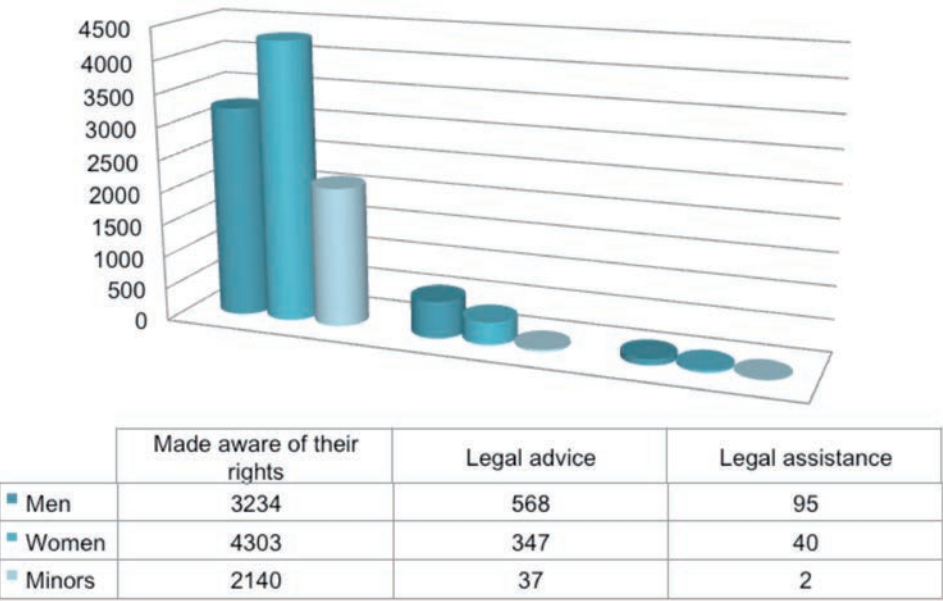
The support provided to the three partner CSOs by ASF is both financial and technical. The financial support will enable the CSOs to provide legal advice and legal assistance services to the population – in particular to women, children and persons in detention, including in the provinces. The technical support will help the CSOs improve the development, implementation and evaluation of their projects, share their knowledge, improve coordination of their efforts, and make joint recommendations to the authorities in relation to legal advice and legal assistance services.



The legal clinic run by the APLFT at Moissala
© ASF/B. Kabagambe, October 2014

Activities 2014 at a glance

LEGAL AID SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE POPULATION BY THE AFJT, THE APLFT AND THE PILC



PROJECT

IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR PERSONS IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS IN CHAD

Donor: European Union
Duration: 2 years (February 2014 > February 2016)
Budget: €811,358

- Supporting the 3 partner CSOs:**
- Technical support with designing projects: strategy, logical framework, methodology, link between activities and objectives, quality of legal aid services, sustainability, feasibility, planning, cost-effectiveness, budgetary planning, monitoring and evaluation.
 - Facilitating support between CSOs, especially in the area of financial management.
 - Financial support amounting to €160,000 per partner CSO for the implementation of accepted projects (over a period of 20 months).
 - Follow-up missions in the field:
 - 1 mission with APLFT in Bongor: presentation of the project to judicial, traditional and administrative authorities.
 - 1 mission with PILC in Doba: assistance with the organisation of a retraining workshop for paralegals, meetings with beneficiaries of the services of the paralegals and local legal aid actors.
 - Workshops with the 3 partner CSOs enabled the drafting of individualised capacity-building plans, in the form of individual monthly follow-up meetings and joint training sessions. 10 monthly follow-up meetings and 2 joint training sessions were organised:
 - 1 training session for monitoring/evaluation and advocacy techniques (12 participants).
 - 1 training session on financial management (6 participants).
 - Lobbying: consultation meetings with partners from the state and civil society, regarding the legal aid bill in Chad.



Information day about the ROJ in Sfax © ROJ, May 2015

Training of ROJ members on trial monitoring techniques
© ROJ, April 2015

FOCUS

The right to a fair trial should become a reality

14 February 2014

Everyone seeking justice must be guaranteed the right to a fair trial as defined by international standards. This is what the Réseau d'observation de la justice tunisienne (ROJ, or the Observation Network of Tunisian Justice), created by ASF in partnership with the Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme (Tunisian League for Human Rights - LTDH) and the Ordre National des Avocats de Tunisie (Tunisian National Association of Lawyers - ONAT), is calling for. Its third report¹ contains proposals for several partial reforms to the penal process and changes to certain practices undertaken by judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

The ROJ was launched in 2012 to examine any failures on the part of the Tunisian justice system to ensure the right to a fair trial during the transitional period. To make this project a reality, 200 observers from both civil society and the Tunisian Bar Association have been trained on how international standards related to fair trials are implemented, and have been tasked with observing how justice is working. Between 2012 and 2013, 171 hearings of 94 trials were observed, and 780 inadequacies were reported to the ROJ.

The ROJ report emphasises the issues faced when applying international standards in Tunisia. *"The problem doesn't really lie with national law or international standards. We have found that the main contradictions to standards lie in current practices, and it is here that they are being flouted"*, commented a criminal lawyer working in the ROJ. *"Many of these divergences from the law have a negative impact on the person on trial."* One observation showed that the right to an attorney – a fundamental element of access to justice – is not currently guaranteed in all cases. Several reforms should be put into place in order to create a non-discriminatory system of legal aid which works to benefit all justice seekers. On this point, the ROJ welcomes the recent adoption of Article 108 of the new Constitution which foresees simplified access to justice and assures legal representation for even people in extreme poverty.

The report also points out a number of problems faced by people being held in custody. Tunisian law does not systematically require a lawyer to be present at this key stage in the penal process. Yet, experience in other countries shows that their presence may protect the rights of the accused, and could prevent instances of police brutality without hindering the inquiry process. The ROJ therefore encourages a reform of the current penal procedural code in order to provide systematic access to legal representation for all people held in custody.

"This third report by the ROJ concludes an important phase in the monitoring process of justice in Tunisia. We would like to thank all observers for their work", said Hela Ben Salem, ASF's Project Coordinator in Tunis. *"The next step is to advocate for these ideas to make sure that the recommendations are effectively put into place. We, along with our partners, hope to actively contribute to the creation of impartial justice and guaranteed rights and freedoms for all people seeking justice, including the most vulnerable and marginalised groups."*

In all, three ROJ reports are currently available online.² Officially launched on 1 September 2014, the second phase of the project is supported by the Foundation to Promote Open Society. The activities did not start until 2015, and will be chronicled in ASF's next annual report.

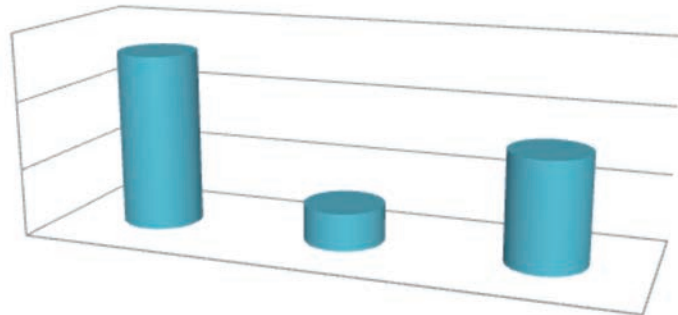
¹ http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ASF_TUN_RapportROJ2014_FR1.pdf. This report is also available in Arabic.

² First report (December 2012): http://www.asf.be/wp-content/publications/ASF_TUN_RapportROJ2012_EN.pdf

Second report (September 2013): http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ASF_TUN_rapport-analyse-ROJ-francais.pdf

Activities in 2014 at a glance

LEGAL AID SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE POPULATION



	Made aware of their rights	Legal advice	Legal assistance
■ Men and women combined	521	110	321

PROJECT

FOR THE ADOPTION AND EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF QUALITY STANDARDS IN ADMINISTERING JUSTICE IN TUNISIA

Partners: Ordre National des Avocats de Tunisie (ONAT, or National Association of Lawyers), Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH, or Tunisian League for Human Rights)

Donors: Ministry of European Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Open Society Institute. Between June and December 2012, the project also benefited from the support of the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations of Germany. Officially launched on 1 September 2014, the second phase of the project is supported by the Foundation to Promote Open Society. The activities did not start until 2015 and will be chronicled in ASF's next annual report.

Duration: 23 months (June 2012 > May 2014)

Budget: €766,256

The results summarised here regard the entire project.

■ Creation of the Réseau d'observation de la justice tunisienne (ROJ, or Observation Network of Tunisian Justice), bringing together legal professionals and human rights defenders:

- Recruitment and training (6 training sessions) of 126 case observers and 220 observers of failures on justice issues, who produced 94 and 150 observation reports, respectively (concerning 780 inadequacies overall).
- Production of 3 analysis and recommendation reports:
 - *Monitoring Network of Tunisian Justice during the transition* (December 2012).¹
 - *Report Analysing Data from Observing Proceedings and Failures of the Tunisian Justice System* (September 2013).²
 - *The Fair Criminal Trial: Comparative Analyses of International Standards, National Standards and Tunisian Practices* (January 2014).³
- These reports and recommendations were circulated during press conferences and roundtable conferences bringing together relevant stakeholders, including the Tunisian Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence, judges, magistrates, lawyers, representatives of civil society organisations, and police.

■ Access to justice and legal aid:

- Analysis and evaluation of legal advice services provided by 7 associations.⁴
- Support and monitoring of these associations: training (5 sessions) and coaching (16 sessions) in project design and management, establishment of legal aid services, design of tools for monitoring/evaluation, listening techniques in a legal context and fundraising. 12 lawyers working in 3 legal clinics also benefited from this training.
- Carrying out an extensive baseline study of legal aid in Tunisia⁵ (analysis of instruments, qualitative interviews and quantitative survey of 6,000 people in 22 out of 24 governorates).
- 1 workshop for discussion and sharing of good practice in the area of access to justice, bringing together key actors in the legal aid system in Tunisia (35 participants).
- Establishment of 3 pilot legal clinics in conjunction with the Tunisian Association of Young Lawyers, AFTURD-Twiza, and Chemin de la Dignité enabling 131 cases to be taken on.
- Study on the introduction of the right to access to a lawyer for everyone in custody (with ONAT).

¹ http://www.asf.be/wp-content/publications/ASF_TUN_RapportROJ2012_EN.pdf. This report is also available in French.

² http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ASF_TUN_rapport-analyse-ROJ-francais.pdf. This report is also available in Arabic.

³ http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ASF_TUN_RapportROJ2014_FR1.pdf. This report is also available in Arabic.

⁴ Chemin de la Dignité (CDD), Conseil National des Libertés de Tunisie (CLNT), Liberté et Équité, Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH), Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la Recherche et le Développement (AFTURD-Twiza), Organisation contre la Torture en Tunisie (OCTT), Réforme du Système de la Sécurité.

⁵ http://www.asf.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/ASF_Tunisie_EtudeAideLe%CC%81gale_2014_6.pdf

PROJECT

THE DEFENSE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS (ESRs) OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IN THE MONASTIR AND MINIER BASSIN REGION

Partner: Forum tunisien pour les droits économiques et sociaux (FTDES, or Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights)

Donor: European Union

Duration: 18 months
(January 2013 > June 2014)

Budget: €266,756



© ASF/S. Stanton

- Throughout the project, ASF worked with the FTDES to improve understanding and support the adoption of a human rights-based approach. Activities mainly focused on capacity building among members of the FTDES through training in this approach:
 - 1 training session on consultation techniques and active listening for the FTDES, the Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la Recherche sur le Développement et the Association Twiza pour le Patrimoine, la Solidarité et le Développement (12 participants).
- Arguments were developed to conduct negotiations in defence of the rights of vulnerable people.
- All texts relevant to the devising of these strategies (articles, laws, etc.) were made available to members of the FTDES in 3 reference libraries in Tunis, Redeyef and Monastir, amounting to a total of 38 works.
- 1 training sessions for lawyers in taking on cases relating to ESRs (37 participants).
- Textile workers in Monastir ("JBG" case): legal assistance for 322 people wrongfully dismissed following the fraudulent bankruptcy of 5 factories belonging to a Belgian group. On 5 June 2014, the Monastir Court of First Instance convicted all five companies of non-compliance with social legislation. The 311 workers won their case and were granted almost all of the benefits owed to them. FTDES then worked on transcribing the judgments so that they could be enforced and notified to workers.¹
- Coaching and support for the Monastir and Redeyef sections of the FTDES, in organising their services and training offered by them to local target groups:
 - 1 training session on the right to health and water in Redeyef.
 - 1 training session on the right to work and a decent life in Moulare.
 - 1 training session on the right to work in Metlaoui.
 - 1 training session on the right to a healthy environment and work in Mdhilla.
- 1 workshop for sharing good practices of ESRs, bringing together members of all FTDES sections; writing and distribution of a guide to tools and procedures for caring for vulnerable people.
- 1 closing conference to present the results of the project to the press and distribute news report.

¹ At the time of publication of this report (August 2015), the workers have not yet been compensated. ASF and the FTDES have applied for a grant to carry on supporting the workers, in particular through the enforcement of the legal rulings. They have also drawn up a global strategy both to meet the needs of the workers in the short term, as their socio-economic situation and health are precarious, and to pursue results in the long term, aiming to increase the participation of women in political decision-making. This strategy is based on 3 areas of intervention:

- 1) Guaranteeing the legal and economic autonomy of the 321 workers by setting up a co-operative and developing a capacity-building programme.
- 2) Raising awareness among factory workers in the region and supporting them through mobile legal clinics and legal advice.
- 3) Highlighting the fight by textile workers to promote their access to national and regional decision-making forums with regard to public policy concerning employment.

PROJECT

FOR A TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE FOCUSED ON THE VICTIMS

Partners: Organisation Contre la Torture en Tunisie (OCTT, or Tunisian Organisation Against Torture), Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la Recherche sur le Développement (AFTURD, or Association of Tunisian Women for Research and Development)

Donor: Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Duration: 18 months (May 2014 > October 2015)

Budget: €240,000

The law on transitional justice in Tunisia was passed in December 2013. It provides for a set of mechanisms intended to seek the truth about violations of human rights, to bring criminal proceedings against the suspected perpetrators, to compensate and rehabilitate victims, and to preserve the memory of victims, and establish guarantees of non-recurrence. Also provided for in the law, the Instance Vérité et Dignité (IVD, or Truth and Dignity Commission) was created in May 2014. It will be tasked with shedding light on the violations committed since the country became independent and setting up a compensation fund.

The aim of ASF's project is to put victims of serious human rights violations at the centre of the transitional justice process, enabling the effective exercise of their rights before the Tunisian courts, and contributing to the development of mechanisms tailored to their needs. It is structured around 3 main areas: awareness-raising, information and guidance for victims; training and coaching of a pool of 16 lawyers so that they can provide high-quality legal advice and assistance to victims; and advocacy to ensure the rights implementation in the area of transitional justice.

- A baseline study about transitional justice in Tunisia, focusing on victim rights (analysis of legislative and regulatory texts, definition of legal rules in relation to transitional justice, and qualitative study investigating the expectations of the main actors).
- Strengthening the 2 partner associations by recruiting a project manager within each structure. Their tasks mainly involve awareness-raising, welcoming, informing and guiding victims and assisting them with building their cases, and filing them with the IVD. They received training on these various aspects. Regular working and follow-up sessions were organised with them. A participatory workshop was held to define the arrangements for future awareness-raising sessions (format, target audience, regions, tools, etc.).
 - Producing an awareness-raising and information brochure *Towards transitional justice with a focus on the victims*.
 - Organisation of an information and awareness-raising session at the Youth Centre in Kasserine (21 participating victims).
 - By 31 January 2015, 70 people had visited the offices of AFTURD and OCTT, 36 of whom filed their cases with the IVD.
- Training of a pool of 16 lawyers (10 women and 6 men) specialising in international human rights law.
 - 1 training session on the principles of international criminal law and international instruments governing human rights (13 participants).
- Regular meetings with actors from Tunisian civil society, international organisations and institutions involved in the transitional justice process, to discuss progress made and actions to be taken regarding advocacy. A press release calling for the maintenance of the process of transitional justice and vigilance in the appointment of judges for specialist courts was published in October 2014.¹



The 16 lawyers in the Transitional Justice pool at the signing of their charter of commitment © ASF/H. Chebbi, October 2014

¹ <http://www.asf.be/blog/2014/10/25/tunisia-legislative-elections-should-not-slow-down-transitional-justice/>



A still from video *Crossroads: Together for international justice in Colombia* © ASF, Universal TV Media & Tropica Media, December 2014

The Crossroads Project



© Local Voices/A. Bouvy, 2014

Testimonies of international justice

As part of the “Promoting the full implementation of the Rome Statute principles” project, ASF developed a major communication component called Crossroads.

The idea behind this was to increase understanding among the public of what international criminal justice means, focusing on its transnational, positive and human dimensions.

The campaign has two main messages. First is that international crimes should be judged primarily at national level. Second is that dealing with past crimes is essential for building lasting peace. The international criminal justice system is therefore first and foremost a collective system. The title *Crossroads* symbolises the idea that it is a meeting point for victims, perpetrators, lawyers, judicial actors, etc.

The main challenge of the project is in its complexity: how to reach – in three languages – the target audience in Europe and in the six countries covered by the project, throughout the project, and with a relatively limited budget?

With the technical support of specialist suppliers (for video production and digital communication), the ASF team developed online communication tools, supported by television promotion.

ASF created a *Road to Justice* website¹ containing videos,² photos and testimonies gathered from people in the countries involved, and regularly updated in the light of developments in international justice. The project also involved social media activity.³ A TV commercial⁴ was broadcast on general news channel EURONEWS.

The campaign was launched in the run-up to Human Rights Day (10 December 2014) and the TV commercial was watched by 2 million viewers in Europe.

The budget for the communication component was €115,000. ASF obtained free advertising space worth €86,678.

PROJECT

PROMOTING THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROME STATUTE PRINCIPLES (CROSSROADS)

Partners: ASF Canada (for activities in Latin America), Informal Sector Service Centre (for activities in Nepal)

Donors: European Union, MacArthur Foundation (since June 2014 for Uganda only)

Duration: 2.5 years (October 2013 > April 2016)

Total budget: €1,900,000

The project covers Burundi, Uganda, DR Congo, Colombia, Guatemala and Nepal. Activities carried out in Burundi, Uganda, Nepal, and DR Congo are discussed in this report’s respective sections on these countries. Activities in Latin America – Colombia and Guatemala – are undertaken by Avocats Sans Frontières-Canada. For details of those activities, see www.asfquebec.org/en/publications-en.

The ASF teams running the project also gave a series of presentations at various international forums, including the Assembly of States Parties, ICC-NGO roundtables, the Hague Institute for Global Justice, and the UN Business and Human Rights Forum.

¹ <https://www.roadtojustice.eu>

² International justice in Burundi: <http://youtu.be/q8rIHmo1Lh8>

International justice in Colombia: <http://youtu.be/0h0NvAqoeU>

International justice in Nepal: <http://youtu.be/Hwsu8wamYE0>

International justice in Uganda: <http://youtu.be/h2keDJEziEM>

International justice in DR Congo: <http://youtu.be/-HoAS2j1AAs>

³ <https://www.facebook.com/crossroads.intersections>

⁴ http://youtu.be/h_pnYOLV6A



Members of Pygmy communities are victims of death threats and murders in South Kivu (DR Congo) © ASF/G. Van Moortel, June 2013

The HRD project



Dominique Kamuandu, ASF International Justice Programme Coordinator in Congo © ECDEVCO/T. Rogé, May 2014

FOCUS

How to protect human rights defenders?

28 May 2014

Dominique Kamuandu is the ASF International Justice Programme Coordinator in Congo. He spoke at a forum devoted to supporting and protecting Human Rights Defenders (HRD), organised in May 2014 in Brussels by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

Q: Whether they are lawyers, members of civil society or journalists, why do HRDs need protection?

Dominique Kamuandu: "Whether in Africa, Latin America or Asia, HRDs are not well thought of, because they denounce human rights violations committed by their governments and/or armed groups. They are subject to threats and intimidation that aim to silence them: anonymous phone calls, arrests, kidnapping, harassment and in the worst cases, assassinations. In DR Congo, HRDs work in a particularly uncertain environment. Democracy and the Rule of law have not yet been sufficiently consolidated, because the country is coming out of a war. The priorities of the Congolese state are peace and security rather than human rights. On the other hand, the executive power officially controls the judiciary, which prevents the latter from acting freely and independently."

Q: ASF launched a programme to protect HRDs supported by the European Union in 2011. What actions is ASF taking in that programme?

D.K.: "There are many HRDs who need support and protection in DR Congo, and ASF is not the only organisation providing protection for them. We play a complementary role and work on several levels. First of all, we provide legal protection for HRDs. This allows them to make their voices heard via their lawyers and to fight against impunity for criminals. Furthermore, we are able to ensure physical protection in the event of a real threat. This means making their place of residence or work secure, or relocating them, sometimes with their families. Finally, we coordinate advocacy actions in order to get a law for the defence of human rights adopted. Our programme not only benefits lawyers, as we also provide help to journalists who need assistance while practising their profession."

Q: Several organisations are involved in protecting HRDs. What do you consider to be ASF's added value?

D.K.: "We played a decisive role in revising the bill concerning the protection of human rights in DR Congo. A bill was passed in 2011 but was later abandoned. Following a consultation on the national strategy for protecting human rights, organised by ASF in November 2013, a follow-up committee dedicated to this bill was created. This committee, made up of institutional players as well as some from civil society, revisited the bill and the new text was endorsed by a deputy last February. It is now the subject of draft legislation before the Parliament and will be put to a vote. Meanwhile, we continue to work on providing assistance to HRDs, the ordinary people who take extraordinary risks."

Activities 2014 at a glance

PROJECT

SUPPORT AND PROTECTION FOR LAWYERS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE REGIONS OF THE AFRICAN GREAT LAKES AND EASTERN AFRICA (HRD)

Partner: East African Law Society (EALS)

Donors: European Union, Wallonie-Bruxelles International

Duration: 3.5 years (November 2011 > June 2015)

Budget: €1,538,000

The project covers Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

In 2014, ASF was involved in 10 legal assistance cases and 14 direct assistance cases for HRDs who were threatened, abused, etc. as a result of their activities in defence of human rights.

■ Direct assistance:

1. HRDs belonging to an organisation in Uvira (DR Congo): covering the cost of medical care and enhancing the organisation's data security.
2. Facilitator in the field for raising awareness of the rights of women and children (DR Congo): temporary relocation.
3. 2 defenders belonging to a women's organisation assisting disadvantaged people (DR Congo): temporary relocation.
4. Lawyer threatened due to his involvement in a legal case (DR Congo).
5. President of a human rights and development organisation in Kisangani (DR Congo): improving home security and security advice.
6. Executive secretary of a human rights organisation in Kinshasa (DR Congo): improving home and document security, and assistance with communication.
7. Member of an organisation tasked with promoting responsible citizenship among Congolese young people.
8. Sub-grant for the organisation SOS-IJM in Bukavu (DR Congo): improving security for the organisation's members and data.
9. Chairperson of an NGO working against violence and for development in North Kivu (DR Congo): temporary relocation and joint advocacy with BCNUDH.
10. Lawyer threatened in Goma (DR Congo): temporary relocation and support for his transfer by a partner organisation.
11. Sub-grant for the organisation Great Lakes Human Rights League (Rwanda): improving security for the organisation's members and data.
12. Chairperson of an information and support network for NGOs based in DRC: assistance with relocation and psychological support
13. Chairperson of an anti-corruption and economic malpractice organisation in Burundi: assistance with relocation.
14. Sub-grant for the Burundian Union of Journalists: improving security for the organisation's members and data and training journalists.

■ Legal assistance:

1. Secretary General of an NGO based in Lisala (DR Congo), sued by a logging company for detrimental and false allegations.
2. Chairman of an association of journalists in Kinshasa (DR Congo) on legal and disciplinary case.
3. 2 HRDs belonging to an organisation for the coordination of civil society in Walikale (DR Congo).
4. Chairman of an organisation for peace and development in Kinshasa (DR Congo).
5. 4 activists from a grassroots movement fighting for positive change (DR Congo).
6. Chairman of an association for the protection of human rights and detainees (Burundi).
7. Director of Radio Publique Africaine (Burundi).
8. Against the backdrop of repeated bans on demonstrations in Burundi, ASF provided legal assistance to the FORSC (Forum for the Strengthening of Civil Society in Burundi), which brought an administrative action against Bujumbura City Council.
9. Member of an organisation fighting for the territorial rights of local communities in Kenya.
10. Filing of a harassment suit in the Floribert Chebeya case (DR Congo).

■ Establishing a Protection Fund (The African Great Lakes Human Rights Defenders Protection Fund, officially created in March 2015):

- Meetings of partners for purpose of establishing the Fund (concerning the legal structure and operationalising the Fund, drafting of the articles of association, etc.).
- Carrying out studies into the (legal) protection status of HRDs in the 5 countries covered by the project.

■ Training sessions for 42 lawyers in the regional pool:

- 3 coaching sessions (Burundi, DR Congo and Uganda).

■ Strengthening legislative and political frameworks:

- Carrying out a comparative study of case law concerning the judicial treatment of cases involving HRDs (published in September 2015).
- Lobbying the Tanzanian Human Rights Defenders Coalition to adopt the second action plan of the East Africa Community for the promotion and protection of human rights and HRDs.
- Follow-up committee for the workshop organised in 2013 on National Strategies for the Protection of HRDs in DR Congo: lobbying for the passing of a law protecting HRDs in DR Congo.
- Participation in Human Rights Open Reflection Week in Uganda and publication of a position paper on laws restricting the space for the freedoms required by the work of HRDs.

FOCUS

Defending freedom of expression

8 August 2014

In June 2014, ASF launched a training and awareness-raising programme, part of the *Kalima* project for the promotion of freedom of expression and the protection journalists and bloggers. This project is taking place in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, a region undergoing a significant political transition. It also marks the opening of an ASF office in Morocco.

While government authorities in Tunisia and Morocco respect the right of freedom of expression more than in the past, the protection of those directly involved in promoting this freedom is not always guaranteed. In Egypt, the situation is more dramatic, in particular for journalists who are subjected to pressures and threats, most notably in the name of the fight against terrorism. Whether they are bloggers, lawyers, journalists or human rights defenders, the aim of the *Kalima* project is specifically to support them in their commitment to protecting and promoting freedom of expression.

"We called the project Kalima because this Arabic word means both 'speech' and 'word'. It plays on the two freedoms which are the object of this project: freedom of speech or expression, and freedom of the press", explains Bahia Zrikem, the ASF Representative based in Rabat.

Kalima is being implemented with partners from Moroccan, Tunisian and Egyptian civil society. It is supporting, protecting and strengthening the rights of any person or organisation expressing an opinion, testifying or disseminating information in a peaceful and independent manner, including through the media.

Activities to improve the skills and competencies of lawyers in protecting and promoting freedom of expression were planned. In collaboration with its partners, ASF laid the framework to create a regional platform for discussion and advocacy, bringing together stakeholders involved in the promotion of the right to freedom of expression in the three countries concerned.

Bahia Zrikem notes that *"people who are the victims of actions intended to impede their freedom to express themselves can contact us. We work closely with lawyers and human rights organisations in order to provide legal protection to those who request it, whether that is legal assistance or even observing the trial"*.

Through the *Kalima* project, ASF will be sharing our expertise in relation to access to justice with local NGOs, lawyers and journalists to enable them to make use of the legal framework available. The aim is to protect and expand freedom of expression in a sustainable way in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

A training on regional and international protection mechanisms regarding freedom of expression in June 2015 in Rabat, Morocco
© ASF/M. Ben Khouja

The Kalima Project



© ASF/G. Van Moortel

Activities 2014 at a glance

PROJECT

EXPANDING THE SPACE FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION BY PROTECTING AND LEGALLY EMPOWERING TRADITIONAL AND CITIZEN JOURNALISTS, AND BLOGGERS (*KALIMA*)

Partners: ADALA (Morocco), Centre tunisien pour la liberté de la presse (Tunisian Centre for the liberty of the press, Tunisia), Egyptian Coordination of Rights and Freedom (Egypt)

Donor: U.S. Department of State - The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor

Duration: 2 years (October 2013 > October 2015)

Budget: \$ 668,250

The project covers Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

- Carrying out a baseline study in the three countries involved to establish the baseline situation: obstacles encountered by journalists and bloggers in accessing justice in case of a violation of their rights of freedom of expression and freedom of the press, identification of key actors in the sector, etc. This data facilitates the orientation of the project and lays the groundwork for its evaluation.
- Training for journalists and lawyers to give them a better understanding of how accusations of defamation can be used to restrict freedom of expression:
 - 1 training session in Rabat (Morocco), with ADALA (25 participants).
 - 1 training session in Tunis (Tunisia), with the Centre Tunisien pour la Liberté de la Presse (20 participants).
 - 1 training session in Cairo (Egypt), with the Egyptian Coordination of Rights and Freedom (20 participants).
- Monitoring of 10 cases involving traditional journalists and bloggers accused of defamation, blasphemy, etc. In 2014, none of the cases monitored were followed by legal assistance.
- Creation of a regional platform for discussion and advocacy, bringing together actors involved in the promotion of the right to freedom of expression:
 - Organisation of focus groups in the 3 countries concerned, to identify actors involved, existing advocacy initiatives, and the main legal obstacles to freedom of expression and of the press.





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Access to justice and development

Initiated in mid-2014, the research project on access to justice and development approaches ASF's purpose from a scientific perspective. The project's aim is to highlight the impact of ASF's work and the relation among access to justice, rule of law, and economic and social development in our countries of intervention.

This project responds to growing demand within the cooperation sector for concrete evidence of the positive effects of development programmes. For several years in the justice and rule of law sector in particular, various stakeholders have expressed a specific need for the production and dissemination of evidence of projects' impacts in the field: impact on economic and social development processes in general – local or national, community or institutional – and on the reduction of poverty in particular. In these cooperation programmes, the law is often used as a tool for reducing social and economic inequality and increasing the effectiveness of the rule of law in favour of the poorest and most marginalised people. However, in the long term, concrete proof of the positive impact of this approach remains rare and less scientifically reliable than in other sectors.

The project proposes a range of specific activities: (I) intellectual reflection on the evaluation of access to justice, the objectives and methodologies of ASF projects and other projects in the sector; (II) field surveys and analysis of projects and of their socio-economic environment, (III) dissemination of the results internally and in development cooperation and academic settings to stimulate discussion.

The second half of 2014 saw the beginning of the theoretical work, together with a series of field studies on access to justice in Burundi, a country in which ASF has been active for over fifteen years. Between November 2014 and April 2015, 3,600 people and 100 justice key actors were interviewed, in the specific fields of local access to justice and preventive detention. This work has already been delivered internally and recommendations have been taken on board for future ASF programmes in Burundi. Specifically, it was demonstrated that a real contribution has been made to ensuring that people seeking justice were more proactive, asserted their rights and took responsibility for their case themselves. Ultimately, although huge challenges still remain, their rights were better respected there than in provinces in which ASF is not present. Several publications on that topic are in the pipeline. Further surveys are planned in 2015 in Tunisia and Burundi, for publication and dissemination in 2016.

Donors: UK Government (UK aid), European Union

Duration: 3 years

Budget: €380.000



Larissa Dinsmoor (second from left), attorney and member of the State Bar of California (USA), was one of the seven ILN members involved in the project © ASF, November 2014

The International Legal Network

FOCUS

The *Pro Bonos* in action in Myanmar

27 April 2015

The Rule of Law Centres Pilot Project aimed to provide training on local justice issues to legal professionals and civil society and at encouraging them to use rule of law principles into their work. Seven legal experts, members of ASF's International Legal Network (ILN), volunteered their *pro bono* services to the project.

Seven ILN members – the *Pro Bonos* as they were fondly referred to by the project team – had the opportunity to share the experience of implementing the Rule of Law Centres Pilot Project in Myanmar. Hailing from different jurisdictions such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and France, the ILN members shared their expertise in fields such as criminal, family, administrative and international law and human rights. They all brought their knowledge and goodwill to help the project team, composed of international and national trainers, in designing curriculum, developing training modules, and assisting in community outreach activities.

"On my first day, I was tasked with working with a national trainer, Nway Nway, to review the curriculum she had drafted" tells Larissa Dinsmoor, US Attorney of the California Bar Association (picture). *"We sat across from each other discussing how the information would be taught to others. Even though we had just met, there was an ease and mutual respect between us. I learned from her and she learned from me and finally, our product was solid"*.

Larissa was based in Lashio, a multi-ethnic city in Northeastern Myanmar. As it was a pilot project and the duration was short, there was immense pressure to draft curriculum and produce high quality training materials. As Larissa recalls, *"We all worked together appreciating each other's individual experience, knowledge and vision. In the end, the Myanmar and international lawyers merged into one indistinguishable force that made a difference"* remarks Larissa. But she confides in us with a wink: *"What I remember most is the laughter. Despite the tireless hours of work spent designing, editing and implementing curriculum, the rule of law team always managed to crack a joke or flash a smile. In this atmosphere, it was easy to make relationships."*

An important aspect of the project was to ensure that the Myanmar team and the participants would engage critically in the process. For that reason, the content and the activities were discussed each week by the international trainers together with the national trainers. Claire Fenton-Glynn (picture) is lecturer in law at King's College, London. She spent one month in Mandalay, the second-largest city of the country. She particularly appreciated this methodology. *"In this way, the national trainers, as well as the participants themselves, could take ownership of the process, and we could act as facilitators for their learning, rather than dictating it"*, Claire explains.

Fenton-Glynn concluded: *"To see the progress made through the development of analytical skills, and know the difference it will make to the way people engage with law, and life, in the future, was particularly significant and crucial in a country that is only just starting to emerge from years of military dictatorship"*.

Launched in 2010, the ILN today brings together over one thousand legal professionals from all over the world who are committed to supporting ASF's international programmes and its missions in the field.

On the same subject, see the article on page 21.



Claire Fenton-Glynn (picture) is Lecturer in Law at King's College, London. She spent one month in Mandalay, the second-largest city in Myanmar © ASF

Activities 2014 at a glance

THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL NETWORK IN 2014

- 32 missions, totalling 324 person days, conducted by pro bono experts from around the world.
- €97,200 saved compared with the amount that these missions would have cost if they had been undertaken by paid external consultants.
- 26 training missions, in Uganda, DR Congo, Burundi, Morocco, Myanmar and Tunisia, on juvenile justice, trial observation methods, interview and active listening techniques, economic and social rights, and business and human rights.
- 3 coaching missions in Burundi and DR Congo, for ASF projects on the protection of economic and social rights, preventive detention, and human rights in general.
- 2 missions for legal assistance and/or legal advice on strategic litigation in Burundi. Alexis Deswaef and Damien Chervaz assisted Burundian lawyers with the OLUCOME and Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa cases respectively (see also page 19).
- 1 technical support mission in Burundi.



Bernard Theys (fourth from left), Belgian lawyer and ILN member, contributed his technical expertise to the activity for the training of trainers within the Bujumbura Bar Association (see also page 16)
© ASF, September 2014

Financial
report

Financial report

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Avocats Sans Frontières spent **94%** of its budget for 2014. This implementation rate is positive, given the unstable contexts in which ASF works, and reflects good budgetary control, representing an improvement from 85% in 2013.

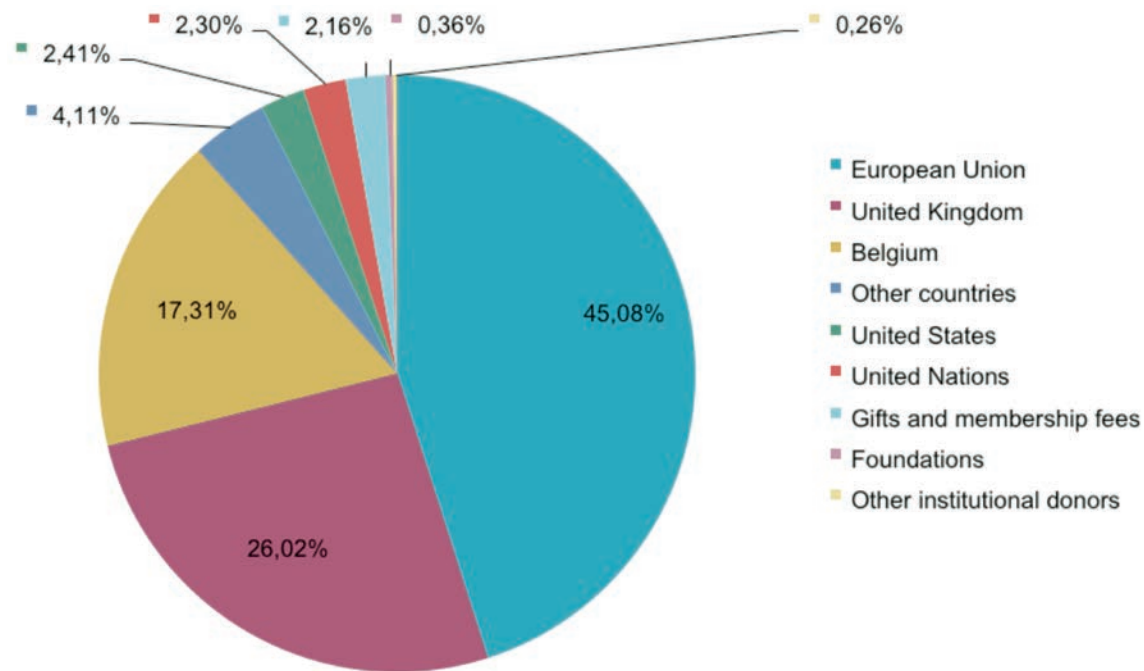
The organisation's income in 2014 rose to **€6,929,361**, which represents significant progress in comparison with 2013, when it was **€5,736,167**.

FUNDING STRUCTURE

There is no change in the funding structure compared with 2013: ASF continues to receive most of our funding from public sources, accounting for **97.5%** of our income, with a smaller proportion from private sources, amounting to **2.5%** of our income.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

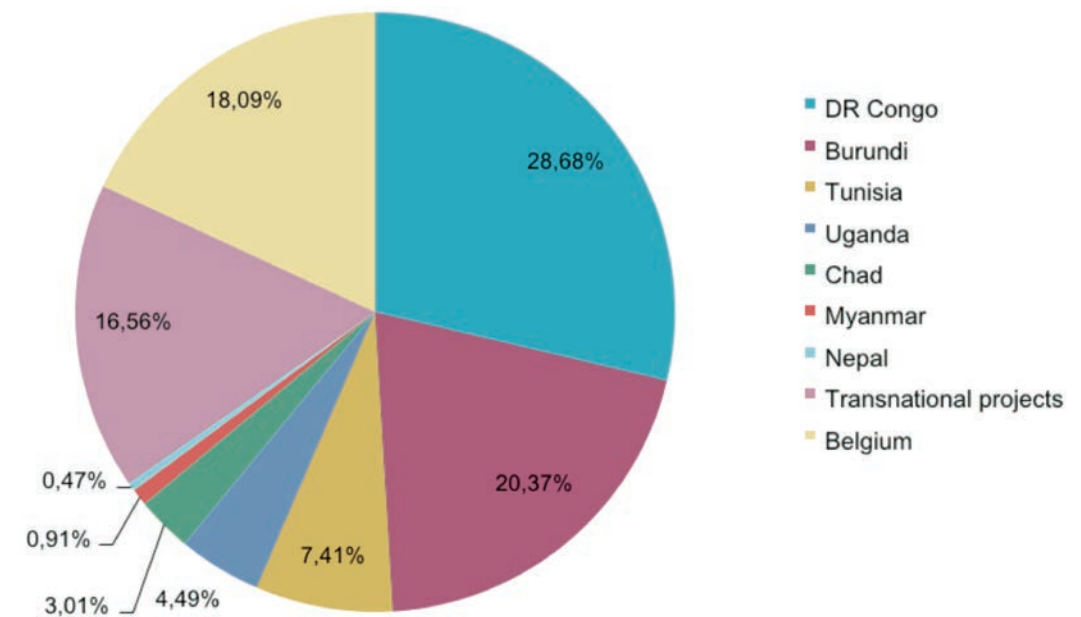
Sources of funding for 2014 are similar to those for 2013, the principal donors being the European Union (€3,123,854), the UK Government (UK aid, €1,802,676) and the Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (€1,199,744). The remainder is divided among government cooperation agencies and foundations.



COST DISTRIBUTION BY GEOGRAPHIC REGION

The countries to which grants were allocated are the following:

- DR Congo, with ASF projects amounting to €1,987,503
- Burundi, €1,411,752
- Tunisia, €513,785
- Uganda, €310,864
- Chad, €208,588
- Myanmar, €62,853
- Nepal, €32,440
- Transnational projects concerning international justice, protection of human rights defenders and freedom of expression cover Burundi, Columbia, Egypt, Guatemala, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Uganda, DR Congo and Tunisia, and amount to €1,147,779.
- Belgium, for central services (management, internal control, human resources), amounting to €438,829, plus €814,968 for support for activities in terms of expertise and communication in all countries in which ASF operates.



BALANCE SHEET (IN €)

		2014	2013	2012
ASSETS				
Fixed assets	20/28	40,684	31,021	94,243
II. Intangible assets	21	29	495	2,264
III. Tangible assets	22/27	5,864	2,247	5,631
B. Installations, machinery and equipment	23	3,928	1,201	3,826
C. Furniture and vehicles	24	1,936	1,046	1,804
IV. Financial assets	28	34,791	28,278	86,348
Current assets	29/58	1,284,747	2,436,485	2,636,133
VII. Amounts receivable within one year	40/41	217,292	147,287	227,298
IX. Cash at bank and in hand	54/58	1,066,519	2,273,599	2,404,632
X. Deferred charges and accrued income	490/1	936	15,599	4,102
TOTAL ASSETS	20/58	1,325,431	2,467,505	2,730,377

LIABILITIES				
Association Funds	10/15	322,276	426,273	199,869
IV. Reserves	13	354,119	354,119	179,118
V. Profit brought forward	140	0	72,154	20,750
Loss brought forward	141	(31,843)	0	0
VI. Subsidies en capital	15	0	0	0
VII. Provisions and deferred taxes	16	528,076	309,163	0
Debts	17/49	475,078	1,732,069	2,530,508
B. Financial debts	43	0	0	0
C. Trade creditors	44	126,910	208,475	108,672
E. Taxes, salaries and social welfare contributions	45	227,447	207,113	134,274
1. Taxes	450/3	17,585	94,794	
2. Salaries and social welfare contributions	454/9	209,862	112,319	134,274
F. Other debts	47/48	29,283	1,294,349	2,287,561
3. Non-interest bearing debt (donor advances)	4891	29,283	1,294,349	2,287,561
X. Accrual and deferred income	492/3	91,438	22,132	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	10/49	1,325,431	2,467,505	2,730,377

PROVISION FOR CO-FUNDING RISK

In order to provide better coverage of the risks associated with current demands for project co-funding, ASF set up a provision of €418,292 on the liabilities side of the balance sheet at the end of 2014. This amount covers the risks associated with project co-funding beginning in or before 2014 and ending in 2015 and 2016.

In addition to this provision, on the liabilities side of the balance sheet, ASF also maintains provisions set up in previous years for tax liabilities (€22,964) and legal risks (€59,897)

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

		2014	2013	2012
I. Operating Income	70/74	6,929,361	5,736,167	4,788,779
A. Revenues	70	6,778,058	5,607,363	4,639,694
B. Membership fee, donations and legacies	73	149,349	128,804	117,597
a. Membership fee		2,742	4,172	5,880
b. Donations from individuals		9,681	5,811	11,602
c. Donations from bar associations		114,000	102,464	89,925
d. Donations - others		22,926	16,357	8,077
C. Other operating income	74	1,955	0	2,113
II. Operating charges	60/64	-6,895,142	-5,103,099	-4,605,474
A. Services and other goods	61	3,866,541	2,841,105	2,299,111
B. Salaries, social welfare and pensions	62	2,776,241	2,231,957	2,284,988
C. Depreciation	630	3,329	12,715	10,738
D. Amounts written off on trade debtors	631/4			
E. Provision for risks and losses	635/7	225,706	279,676	
F. Other operating charges	640/8	23,325	17,322	10,637
III. Operating profit	70/64	34,219	353,392	183,305
IV. Financial income	75	52,136	4,921	45,341
V. Financial charges	65	-112,183	-124,189	-203,274
VI. Gain on ordinary activities before charges	70/65	-25,828	234,124	25,372
VII. Extraordinary income	76	12,115	23,730	38,823
VIII. Extraordinary charges	66	-90,283	-31,450	-43,444
IX. Profit for the financial year	70/66	-103,996	226,404	20,751
A. Profit to be appropriated	70/69			
a. Profit for the year available for appropriation	70/68	-103,996	226,404	20,751
b. Profit brought forward from the previous year	790	72,154		
B. Allocation to association fund	691/2		175,000	20,751
C. Profit to be carried forward	793/693	-31,843	72,154	

ANNUAL RESULTS FOR 2014

ASF made an annual operating profit of €34,219, despite setting up the provision for co-funding as explained above.

Overall, ASF made a loss of €103,996 for the 2014 financial year. This is partly due to significant financial expenditure resulting from the foreign exchange risks inherent in ASF's activities.

This result does not affect the reserve of €175,000 for social liabilities, set up in 2013.



Avocats Sans Frontières abides by the Ethical Code of the Association for ethical fundraising. This means that donors, staff and employees are informed of how the funds raised are used at least once a year.



The ASF HQ team and the field project coordinators in gathered in Brussels in June 2015 © S. Jefferson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Hafida Talhaoui (until 31/08), Peter Van der Auweraert (since 01/09)

Vice-Presidents: Jean-Marc Verjus and Edgar Boydens (since 19/06)

Treasurer: Frans Macken

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Francesca Boniotti

IN BRUSSELS

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Ronald Simon, Finance and Administration Director

Barbara Bonte, Human Resources Coordinator (until 31/10)

Bolívar Castro, Financial Controller

Margot Chevnard, Human Resources Officer (since 01/11)

Nadin Coulibaly, Administration, Finances and Logistics Assistant (since 01/04)

Elvis Nda Yapo, Logistics Assistant (until 31/01)

Pascal Vanden Eynde, Financial Controller

STRATEGIC COORDINATION

Lara Deramaix (until 31/07)

Luc Meissner (since 10/06)

Chantal Van Cutsem

THEMATIC EXPERTISE AND PROJECT COORDINATION

Myriam Khaldi, Access to Justice Expert

Jean-Philippe Kot, International Justice Expert

Catherine Lalonde, Advocacy and Strategic Litigation Expert

Bruno Langhendries, Legal Aid Expert (since 05/02)

Hélène Luther-Caby, International Justice Programme Coordinator (since 07/07)

Antonio Manganella, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation for Change Expert (since 19/05, based in Tunis)

Anne-Françoise Meeüs, International Legal Network Coordinator

Luc Meissner, International Justice Programme Coordinator (until 09/06)

Julien Moriceau, Quality and Learning Expert (until 18/05), then Research Coordinator

Shira Stanton, Human Rights Expert

COMMUNICATION AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Séverine Degée, Communication Officer

Sophia Ekbani, Partnerships Officer (from 22/04 until 21/10)

Gilles Van Moortel, Senior External Relations Officer

Manuela Torrao Pereira, Cleaner

VOLUNTEERS, STUDENTS AND INTERNS

Student (data encoding): Alba Donnini (from 28/01 until 31/02)

Volunteer (finances): Gisèle Van Antwerpen

Legal Aid Intern: France Malchair

Communication Interns: Gwendolyn Cano, Sophie Clément, Noé De Bauw, Pauline Deprez, Catherine Ngo Biyack, Emilie Saey, Thibaut van't Hof

Economic and Social Rights Intern: Sylvain Mossou

International Justice Interns: Jonathan Herremans, Caitlin Moens

ILN Interns: Constance Berne, Anaïs Carton, Coralie Mampaey, Gorana Popovic

Finance Intern: Kassoum Tre

Human Resources Intern: Margot Chevnard

Fundraising Intern: Quentin Minsier

IN BURUNDI

Katia Urteaga Villanueva, Head of Mission (until 28/02)

Céline Lemmel, Head of Mission (since 15/03)

BUJUMBURA: HQ

Déo Burero, Cleaner

Logisticians: Freddy Gahuya (until 21/03), Juvénal Ndayiragije (from 17/03 until 31/12)

Legal support: Lyse Gatore (until 31/12), Landry Songore (until 31/12)

Sistor Havyarimana, Legal Assistance Coordinator

Noëlla Irankunda, Technical Assistant (until 31/12)

Person responsible for legal aid development: Catherine Lecrenier (until 28/02), Romain Ravet (since 24/04)

Francine Mucomwiza, Administration Assistant (5 days a month)

Lyse Munezero, Communication Officer (from 11/08 until 31/12)

Drivers: Jean Marie Ndikumana, Olivier Ntafuta (until 31/12), Olivier Rubengebenge

Adrien Nifasha, International Justice Coordinator

Bookkeepers: Désiré Niyonkuru, (from 09/06 until 31/12), Laetitia Ntezicimpa

Janvière Nirirutanya, Legal support, then Legal Aid Assistant (until 31/12)

Jean Nsengiyumva, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Egide Nshimirimana, Officer Thematic group "Demand for Justice" (until 31/12)

Rose Ntawumenyakaziri, Programmes Secretary (until 31/12)

Evelyne Nyagasa, Finance Coordinator

Gilbert Nzeyimana, Coordinator Administration and Logistics

Cynthia Rama, Logistics Assistant (from 01/05)

Innocent Sendimaso, Finance Assistant

BUJUMBURA: PIDDAR-PROJECT

Axelle Nzitonda, Project Coordinator

Legal support: Jean de Dieu Ndayihaya, Mélance Niyonkuru,

Digne Ntakiyiruta

Languide Kanyange, Cleaner

Jean Masumbuko, Interpreter (consultant)

Juste Yamuremye, Project Assistant

GITEGA

Jean Berchmans Ndayishimiye, Office Manager (until 31/12)

Immaculée Kanyamuneza, Legal support (until 31/12)

Barnabé Nyandwi, Driver

BUBANZA

Dieudonné Tabaro, Driver (until 31/12)

Innocent Vyarugaba, Legal support (until 31/12)

NGOZI

Pontien Ndayishimiye, Office Manager (until 31/12)

Audace Gahungu, Driver (from 15/05 until 31/12)

Steve Aleck Nininahazwe, Legal support (until 31/12)

Pie Nkengurutse, Assistant FOPAL (from 15/07 until 31/12)

RUYIGI

Richard Dusabimana, Legal support

Alain Lionnel Nduwarugira, Driver

MUYINGA

Nicole Alida Nininahazwe, Legal support (since 14/02)

Léonidas Ndagijimana, Driver (from 15/04 until 31/12)



The ASF team in Bujumbura in July 2014
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IN MOROCCO

Bahia Zrikem, MENA Representative
Achraf Lamarti, Finance Assistant (since 01/12)

IN NEPAL

Biswo Jit Khadka, Programme Manager
Urmila Thapa, Finance and Administration Manager

IN UGANDA

Ismene Nicole Zarifis, Head of Mission (until 31/12)

Godfrey Ekweny, Driver (until 31/10)
Maria Jurua, Programme Officer Business & Human Rights (since 01/11)
Oscar Mwiswa, IT Support (part-time, since 01/09)
Stella Nakayiwa, Administration, Finance and Logistics Intern
Consolate Nyangoma, Cleaner
Sylvia Jill Sabiiti, Administration, Finance and Logistics Coordinator
Godfrey Tumuhaise, HRD Protection Fund Coordinator (since 01/10)

ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Godwin Mindrea Bua, Programme Coordinator (until 31/07)
Naima Bukenya, Programme Assistant (until 31/07)
Phillip Opio, Programme Officer (until 30/06)

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Brenda Peace Amito, Project Officer (until 30/11)
Dorah Caroline Mafabi, Programme Coordinator (since 01/12)
Legal Interns: Allyna Areebwe (since 01/05), Hannah Dexie (from 01/10 until 31/12),
Diana Natukunda (since 01/05)

IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Hélène Trachez, Head of Mission (until 18/08)
Josselin Léon, Head of Mission (since 16/07)

BUKAVU

Drivers: Benjamin Bukaraba, Abeli Mushamalirwa Munganga
Project Assistants: Ungaobe Germaine Bumbu (Access to Justice), Faustin Cirhuza Lushombo (Administration of Justice), Innocent Cokola Ntadumba (Fight against impunity South Kivu and Maniema, since 20/02)
Pascaline Cibalonza Rhindya, Cleaner (since 15/08)
Odon du Christ Mupepe, Programmes Manager (since 31/03)
Innocent Musafiri Bigarura, Administration, Finance and Logistics (from 01/02 until 31/10)

BUNIA

Project Assistants: Mittérand Bosa Elema (Fight against Impunity), Nicaise Bumba Angwezi (Access to Justice, since 05/03), Dignité Kangoboka Bwiza (Legal Assistance, from 16/06 until 14/08), Patient Kikwaya Kahindo (Administration of Justice)
Drivers: Blaise Kpena Magolo, Jeannot Muhindo Mutsambi
Guillaume Liripa Ngbachulu, Administration, Finance and Logistics
Marc Makwala Mpaka, Programmes Manager

GOMA

Programmes Coordinators East: Isabelle Ana Silva (until 24/11), Alexandre Lopes Rocha Lima (since 20/10)
Project Coordinators: Johnny Lobho Amula (Monitoring, Evaluation and Gender), Julien Cigolo Muzusangabo (Access to Justice)
Laurent Collinet Brdys, Administration, Finance and Logistics Coordinator (since 05/03)
René Dhedonga Ngabu, Logistician (since 01/02)
Eric Kanyamihigo, Bookkeeper (since 23/04)
Drivers: Justin Kashira Ndoole (since 01/09), Olivier Kasiru Mwikiza, Xavier Mochire Batabana (until 07/07)
Project Assistants: Charmante Kinja Simba (Administration of Justice, since 23/04), Don Charles Mufungizi (Access to Justice, until 24/11), James Songa Kilauri (International Justice, until 30/09)
Jules Rhuhunemungu Nyamushebwa, Programmes Manager North Kivu (since 08/09)
Antoinette Vira, Human Resources Officer (until 08/08)



The ASF team in Goma in May 2014
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IN CHAD

Ben Kabagambe, Programme Coordinator (since 01/04)

Victor Bimbo, Guard (since 11/08)
Bellari Diria, Administration, Finance and Logistics Coordinator (from 15/08 until 15/11)
Djimet Kemtitinan, Administration, Finance and Logistics Coordinator (since 01/12)
Dagal Ndlah Nana, Project Assistant (since 01/11)

IN TANZANIA

Gilles Durdu, Regional Project Coordinator, HRD protection
Edward Ssenyange, HRD Protection Fund Coordinator (from 19/01 until 25/05)

IN THAILAND

Miriam Chinnappa, Asia Representative

IN TUNISIA

Federica Riccardi, Head of Mission (until 04/04)
Martin Causin, Head of Mission (since 05/05)
Lisa Palfart, Deputy Head of Mission (since 05/05)

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND LOGISTICS

Logistics: Hichem Chebbi (since 01/03), Ines Jmour (until 31/01), Mohamed Chraiti (Assistant, from 01/02 until 30/04)
Administration, Finance and Logistics Coordination: Wissal Drissi (from 24/03 until 30/05), Henda Maalouche (until 31/01), Lucia Remon (from 01/03 until 15/12), Aida Sahbi (Consultant, from 25/01 until 04/04)
Jihene Hosni, Finance Officer (since 01/10)

PROJECTS

Anne Françoise Beguin, Project Support Officer (until 30/04)
Nadia Ben Halim, International Justice Project Coordinator (since 07/07)
Hela Ben Salem, Legal Aid and Transitional Justice Project Manager
Research Assistants in Transitional Justice: Marwen Bouassida, (from 10/06 until 09/08), Khalil el Arbi (from 10/06 until 09/08)
Khaled Hussein, ECSR Project Coordinator (until 30/11)
Haifa Jeljli, ROJ Project Consultant (since 30/04)
Nada Riahi, Legal Aid Project Consultant (from 01/03 until 30/05)



The ASF team in Tunisia in March 2015
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Cover photograph: Oscar in front of the ruins of his house, destroyed in 2011 during fighting between the Raïa Mutomboki militia and the Congolese national army in Bunyakiri (South-Kivu). ASF has been combatting impunity for international crimes in DR Congo since 2005, facilitating victim participation in legal procedures, among other activities © Local Voices/A. Bouvy, 2014

Annual report 2014

Responsible Editor: Francesca Boniotti, rue de Namur 72 Naamsestraat, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Layout: Marina Colleoni

Printed on Condat Perigord FSC Mix Credit.



Avocats Sans Frontières, 2015

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Ce document est également disponible en français.

Going to print: September 2015

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