



International
Bridges to Justice

JusticeMakers

2017 Prevention of Torture Competition
in Francophonie Africa

JUSTICE CAN'T WAIT

Find out more at
justicemakers.ibj.org



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INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES TO JUSTICE

Ending torture in the 21st Century

In countries throughout the world, systematic human rights abuses disguised as routine criminal processes are a daily reality. The indignities suffered by countless individuals accused of crimes amount to a colossal injustice hidden in plain sight. Despite the strides many countries have made in recent years towards formal recognition of international criminal justice conventions, domestic laws purporting to safeguard defendants' rights are all but toothless, absent effective enforcement. IBJ believes that skilled defense attorneys, equipped with adequate training and support, are the key to unlocking the full potential of criminal justice reforms.

International Bridges to Justice is dedicated to ensuring the basic legal rights of ordinary individuals around the world. Specifically, IBJ works to guarantee every person the right to competent legal representation, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment, and the right to a fair trial. IBJ has provided legal representation to over 31,000 individuals worldwide and has Defender Resource Centers in Burundi, Cambodia, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. Through its 7 country programs, IBJ provides direct legal assistance to those in need, trains lawyers, hosts roundtables for justice officials, and organizes campaigns to inform people of their rights.

Theory of Change

IBJ's mission is global in scope, marshalling a worldwide community of public defenders and legal rights advocates to support the work of defense attorneys in developing countries. In each of its country programs, IBJ works at both the national level, influencing decision-makers to institute system-wide reforms, and on the local level, where IBJ fosters grassroots transformation through trainings, criminal justice roundtables, public awareness campaigns, and the provision of legal services to the indigent accused through Defender Resource Centers.



JUSTICEMAKERS *Our heroes of criminal justice*

The IBJ JusticeMakers Program is a key component of IBJ's strategy to increase access to justice. By connecting, training and funding social innovators around the world, JusticeMakers empowers local lawyers and human rights defenders to advance justice in their communities. Having local human rights defenders run projects on the ground to strengthen the implementation of due process rights has been a truly effective method of reaching out and supporting those in need. The annual JusticeMakers Competition awards \$5,000 to "heroes of criminal justice" to implement their initiatives locally.

The program has enabled IBJ to significantly expand its global reach while maintaining its commitment to protecting legal rights starting on a local level. Thus far, IBJ has hosted seven JusticeMakers Competitions. Its inaugural global competition in 2008 awarded 11 fellowships. In 2010 IBJ hosted not one, but two JusticeMakers Competitions: the Asia JusticeMakers Competition ending in May 2010 and a global competition focusing on Latin America that ended in December 2010. In 2012, the JusticeMakers HIV/AIDS Global Competition focused on the advancement of legal reform to safeguard the human rights of people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS within the criminal justice system. The 2014 JusticeMakers Competition awarded 9 fellowships and the 2015 JusticeMakers Competition targeted young lawyers in the ASEAN region.

Today, with the selection of 10 new Fellows for the 2017 JusticeMakers Competition for Prevention of Torture in Francophonie Africa, IBJ has 69 JusticeMakers Fellows operating in 42 countries. The 2017 Competition is supported by Global Affairs Canada.



2017 *JUSTICEMAKERS* COMPETITION FOR PREVENTION OF TORTURE IN FRANCOPHONIE AFRICA

International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) welcomes 10 new JusticeMakers Fellows to the JusticeMakers Community, concluding its four-month 2017 JusticeMakers Competition for Prevention of Torture in Francophonie Africa. The competition invited applicants with innovative strategies to prevent torture and protect legal rights to apply for funding and support from IBJ. This is the first time that the competition has focused on the Francophonie Africa region specifically.

With the generous support of Global Affairs Canada, each JusticeMakers Fellow will receive 5,000 USD towards implementing his/her winning proposal; will become a member of the JusticeMakers Community and join IBJ's network of 59 previous JusticeMakers Fellows; and will benefit from IBJ's resources, including an online legal training course to equip winners as they commence their fellowship.

The 10 winning applications for the 2017 JusticeMakers Competition come from 7 countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Mauritania and Togo. 5 of the projects are led by women.

The JusticeMakers Competition is a unique opportunity for human rights defenders to pursue the cause of ending torture as an investigative tool. The rigorous and selective judging process makes this an especially prestigious competition. The winners of this award are internationally recognized and will have the distinction of being affiliates of IBJ.

2017 *JUSTICEMAKERS* COMPETITION FOR PREVENTION OF TORTURE IN FRANCOPHONIE AFRICA **JUDGES**



KAREN TSE

Founder and CEO of International Bridges to Justice



PHILIPPE CURRAT

Lawyer in Geneva & former General Secretary of the International Criminal Bar



ELIE ELKAIM

President of the Commission for Human Rights of the Bar Association of the Canton of Vaud



NATHALIE NANSHA MUKENDI MUGANGUZI

Lawyer at the Kinshasa/Gombe Bar Association and President of DRC Equitas Network



MAÎTRE AHMED SALEM BOUHOUBEYNI

Previous Bâtonnier at the Lawyers National Order of Mauritania (ONA), Honorary President of the Conférence Internationale des Barreaux (CIB)



ISIDORE RUFYIKIRI

Former President of the Burundi Bar Association

2017 *JUSTICE*MAKERS FELLOWS
FOR PREVENTION OF TORTURE IN FRANCOPHONIE AFRICA



PAPA AMADOU BA | MAURITANIA

Civil and political rights outreach in Mauritania

"The strengthening of democracy and its corollary, civil liberties, depends on strict observance of civil and political rights"

Mr. Papa Amadou Ba has a Bachelor's in Law from the University of Nouakchott and a master's degree in law from the University of Mauritania. Today, Papa Amadou is the President of the Mauritanian Human Rights League (Ligue Mauritanienne des Droits de l'Homme).

In Mauritania, police officers are not provided with adequate awareness and training on human rights matters. Ordinary individuals in Mauritania similarly have low awareness of their rights, and, without that knowledge, cannot properly exercise and defend them. Moreover, human rights organizations in Mauritania lack the financial capacities to work together with justice stakeholders comprehensively to increase public knowledge and overall support for human rights. Mr Papa Amadou Ba's project is thus designed to address these challenges and aims at reinforcing the civil and political rights of the people of Mauritania.

Through his JusticeMakers project, he will organize training sessions for civil society organizations on civil and political rights, organize a Day of Reflection with the Ministry of Justice, undertake a comprehensive study of civil and political rights in Mauritania and create a Mauritanian civil and political rights handbook. Ultimately, Papa Amadou conceives of it as an inclusive project that will act as a catalyst for better understanding of civil and political rights.

IBRAHIMA SORY DIALLO | GUINEA CONAKRY

National conference on torture and unlawful detention in the Republic of Guinea

"Security forces must apply the law consistently, that is in accord with the criminal code, in order to not inflict torture and unlawful detention"



Mr. Ibrahima Sory Diallo is a Doctor of Medicine, a former civil society activist and politician, and has ten years of experience managing public health projects in Guinea. He is the president and founder of the NGO *Responsible Youth*, responsible for training medical residents in the department of imaging and functional exploration in Conakry, and a researcher. Having been personally a victim of police abuse and arbitrary detention, Ibrahima is today the national coordinator of Prisoners Without Borders in Guinea.

In Guinea, Ibrahima notes, torture, illegal detention and excessively long court proceedings persist despite the efforts that have been made. In addition, the justice system has a number of shortcomings, such as the lack of procedures between courts, non-enforcement of laws, the interference of politicians in judicial decisions and corruption.

Ibrahima's overall objective is to curb torture and illegal detention in Guinea by promoting and protecting human rights. Providing an innovative vision and a clear understanding of human rights and criminal justice, through his JusticeMakers project Ibrahima will support detainees' rights to a fair trial within the legally prescribed limits of time, push for the development and implementation of the new Code of Criminal Procedure to relieve overcrowding in prisons and to strengthen and reinforce the action of human rights actors in the prison environment and in everyday life.



THÉRÈSE DONU | TOGO

Justice for all

“Even today, few women who are victims of physical and moral violence and torture can properly access justice”

Ms. Thérèse Donu has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Law and a Master’s Degree in Environmental, International and Comparative Law. She is a lawyer at the Togo Bar and has worked extensively on the rights of women and people who identify as LGBT. Witnessing cases of abuse and unjust accusations during police custody and detention growing up, Thérèse has a lifelong passion for human rights.

Thérèse strives to combat gender inequality and discrimination based on sexual orientation within the justice system.. Specifically, Thérèse aims to assist two groups who are particularly vulnerable within the criminal justice system: sex workers and LGBT individuals who, because of their professions or sexual orientation, are considered as offenders of justice and are victims of discrimination. Same-sex activity is illegal in Togo, resulting in widespread discrimination in all areas of society.

The *Justice For All* project aims to guarantee the equality of all citizens before the law and before the courts by teaching people about their rights and training justice actors, and civil society representatives. There are several dimensions of Thérèse’s project: the first is to raise awareness among the population about equality rights and to reduce discrimination against LGBT persons and sex workers through radio campaigns and training workshops. The second is to improve access to justice for the target groups by providing legal representation to victims and organizing volunteers to collect cases of torture at the earliest stage of legal proceedings. Lastly, Thérèse aims to ensure that in the future, prisons are built and maintained with respect for the basic rules of hygiene for women prisoners.

NOÉLLIE IYEWAGAGLO | TOGO

Action for effective legal representation of accused persons in Lomé Civil Prison

“The issue of the absence of ineffectivity of legal representation of the accused is a real problem and a true violation of the right to access justice and to a fair trial”



Ms. Noéllie Gaglo is a lawyer with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Law and a certificate of legal aptitude. Having participated at numerous trainings and seminars, she is today treasurer of the Union of Young Lawyers in Togo and works with CACIT (le Collectif des Associations Contre l’Impunité au Togo). She actively participates for the protection of human rights in Togo.

The focus of Noéllie’s project is to address the specific problems of women in prison. Namely, endemic overcrowding, the increasing number of detained women, the difficulties related to childbirth and child care in prison and most critically the absence of legal representation which exacerbates the problem of overcrowding are issues she will tackle.

The main objective of the project is to mobilize fellow lawyers with a passion for human rights to offer free legal representation for women prisoners. Women detainees will receive training from the lawyers to work as paralegal practitioners, thus enabling them to offer legal assistance to their fellow inmates. Thus, the objective will be achieved by providing legal assistance to women detained in Lomé civil prison, the creation of a paralegal pool at the heart of the prison, support to female partners of accused men (who are 70% of the time involved in the follow-up of their spouse’s case), and training sessions with male detainees.



FRANCIS KONE | IVORY COAST

Fighting against abusive pre-trial detention by accelerating legal procedures

“Improving criminal justice by fighting against abusive and unjustified pre-trial detention, by providing training on international law, by monitoring detention facilities, and by advocating for the respect of the fundamental rights of detainees”

Mr. Francis Kone holds a certificate in international humanitarian law, a degree from the School of Business at Abidjan University, and a certificate from the Equitas International Human Rights Training Program. He currently works as a project coordinator for the organization Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT) in Côte d’Ivoire and in partnership with FIACAT (International Federation of ACAT). He is also the coordinator of the Documentation and Observation Commission at the Ivorian Coalition for the International Criminal Court.

Francis has identified prison overcrowding as one of the root causes of mistreatment that occurs in prison. In addition, there are notable problems in terms of hygiene, health and nutrition. Ultimately, prison overcrowding is directly linked to the large number of pre-trial detainees and persons awaiting trial, a phenomena that stems from logistical, technical and capacity problems such as an insufficient number of magistrates, lawyers, and an underdeveloped legal aid system.

Francis’ main objective is thus to combat excessive pre-trial detention and reduce prison overcrowding in two correction centers in Abidjan. He will, through his JusticeMakers project, set up activities such as seminars and workshops to train criminal and civil society actors, make regular visits to prisons and detainees to ensure that they have proper legal support to manage their cases, monitor prison records to verify that cases are correctly logged, and, finally, take on the cases of detainees with the help of volunteer lawyers while working closely with magistrates.

DIEUDONNÉ MUNGUWAMPAGA | D.R. CONGO

Legal assistance to women and children who are victims of torture and ill-treatment in unofficial detention centers in the province of South Kivu.

“This project focuses specifically on women and children in unofficial detention centers (which has never been done before), but most importantly aims to tackle the root causes and to find solutions by appealing to judicial authorities”



Mr. Dieudonné Munguwampaga holds a degree in private law from the Official University of Bukavu and has several certificates in courses in international humanitarian law and mediation. Dieudonné today works as a legal counsel and is a volunteer lawyer for IBJ in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Torture is still used regularly against detained persons, as a means of obtaining a confession, or for the purpose of extracting a bribe in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including in South Kivu province which is the focus of Dieudonné’s project. Furthermore, in addition to the large number of detainees held in Bukavu Central Prison, many people are detained in unofficial detention centers where protections from abuse are lacking.

Dieudonné’s project aims to assist persons both in the pre-trial and trial phase to ensure their procedural rights upon arrest are protected. Not only will he provide free legal assistance to prevent torture, Dieudonné will also provide basic medical assistance to victims who bear injuries related to torture, ill-treatment, illness and poor sanitation. The project will place a particular emphasis on pregnant women and those with young children. To ensure his project has wide impact, Dieudonné will organise training workshops on the basic rights of individuals, appeal to regional and provincial authorities and local health structures to provide medical care to women and children that are victims of torture and ill-treatment, and carry out monitoring sessions in the Kabare-Minova area. The project aims to significantly reduce instances of violations of the fundamental rights of detained women and children.



GISÈLE NGUNGUA SANGUA | D. R. OF CONGO

Access to Justice for All

"The domain of human rights is to me an influent and appropriate domain, open to anyone who cares for justice to give a voice to the voiceless. This space gives hope to those who do not believe in justice"

Ms. Gisèle Sangua has a degree from the University of Lubumbashi in private and judicial law. She is a lawyer at the Lubumbashi Bar Association and the International Criminal Court. She founded an organisation named "Action large des Femmes Avocates" that provides legal assistance to victims of violence and detained women, and takes part in the promotion of the rights for women, leading several awareness activities on the basic principles of the rights of women and girls.

The major problem identified by Gisèle is that of prison overcrowding, stemming from bad coordination between the different actors in the criminal justice sector. Her project is based on the principles of access to justice, the right to a fair trial and the right to competent legal representation. Furthermore, it is equally based on the principle of the right to have access to an effective remedy in a court of law and the right to be heard fairly, publicly and in a reasonable period of time in an independent and impartial court.

Gisèle's project "Access to Justice for All" seeks to empower justice actors to take full responsibility to act for the overall improvement of justice and to streamline the handling of legal cases without unreasonable delay. As such, Gisele will provide legal assistance to 200 detainees in Kassapa prison in Lubumbashi, one of the most overcrowded prison of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Furthermore, she will provide training to local defense lawyers to provide legal representation and monitor conditions of detainees. Ultimately, the long-term objective is to "unblock" the prison facilities to ensure the proper functioning of justice.

KHADI OUEDRAOGO SY | BURKINA FASO

Women And African Prisons

"Equality between men and women is a utopia if you have no means. This is the case for most women in detention since a majority of them have no income or are dependent on their spouses"



Ms. Khadi Ouedraogo Sy has a Bachelors in Business Law and is today the Executive Director of : " la Société de Recouvrement de Créances" in Ouagadougou and Deputy Director of a construction and public works company. Having herself been a victim of arbitrary detention and witnessing the deplorable sanitary conditions in the House of Corrects of Ouagadougou, the idea came to her to humanize prison conditions by improving toilet facilities, providing better food, and improving access to medicine. These actions, together with legal assistance, are the focus of her project.

In Burkina Faso, the central issue linked to the lack of proper legal representation for detainees is poverty. The majority of incarcerated women do not have the money to ask for a lawyer or legal representation. Moreover, poverty also leads to a worsening of detention conditions and leads to an endless fight to have food, access to a doctor and to survive.

Khadi's project " Women and African Prisons" has two components. The first one is to modernize the prisons by making them decent to live in, by installing toilets or showers, by bringing food, medical assistance and by helping the children of incarcerated mothers access a school. The second is to provide legal assistance through a network of volunteer lawyers and to create a monitoring unit and a watching room at the *Tribunal de Grande Instance* in Ouagadougou. The ultimate objective is to create lasting bridges between lawyers, the prosecutor's office and prisoners.



CHARLOTTE TCHAKOUNTE | CAMEROON

To Rebuild the Walls of Justice

"Whereas justice elevates a Nation, injustice brings shame to a nation"

Ms. Charlotte Tchakounte holds a degree in private law, a certificate on mediation, and has been a lawyer at the Cameroon Bar Association for 21 years. Charlotte is the founder of *AJURISTES* (Association of Jurists for Social Integrity) which has the general objective of fighting against all forms of injustice; and the specific objective of protecting the rights of those held in policy custody and detainees. She also acts as a consultant on the issue of abuse against detainees and those in police custody for the Women's Counselling and Information Center in Douala.

The key problems Charlotte has identified in her community are the multiple forms of human rights violations that have their roots in corruption, which is ingrained in many aspects of society. The principal objective of her JusticeMakers project is **To Rebuild the Walls of Justice** in the heart of her community. The objective will be achieved by transforming mindsets - the only guarantee for stability within the legal system, and in turn, for social peace.

Charlotte will improve knowledge of the law on the part of the law enforcement, judiciary, and prison personnel, as well as detainees and ordinary citizens. Furthermore, she will strive to ensure victims of torture can warn investigators against infractions and abuse and improve the relationship between police, prison officials and human rights defenders. Ultimately, she aspires to provide comprehensive safeguards for defendants.

To achieve this goal, Charlotte will implement the following activities: setting up Listening Centers, establishing legal clinics to raise the legal awareness of defendants, providing legal assistance to detainees, preventing torture and defending clients particularly in criminal cases. Lastly, she will organize seminars bringing together police, prison officials, judicial and penitentiary bodies to sensitize them on the consequences of torture.

WMINPIOU GONTRAN WALE SOME | BURKINA FASO

Joining by Justice

"The more aware a society becomes of conflict resolution methods, the less it will need to rely on a violent system of retribution"



Mr. Wminpiou Gontran Walè Somé has a degree in economic, social and cultural law from the *Collège Universitaire Henry Dunant* in Geneva, a certificate in International Criminal Law and is a graduate of the *Ecole Nationale d'Administration et de Magistrature*. He has participated in numerous seminars on the rights of refugees and litigation practices and is a professor at the University of Bobo-Dioulasso. Today, Gontran is a member of the Management Council for Legal Aid Funding in the Court of Appeal in Bobo-Dioulasso and a judge at the *Tribunal de Grande Instance* in Bobo-Dioulasso.

Some of the central challenges Gontran is tackling is the limited application of the rule of law, the inefficiency of penitentiary and prison policies, and poor living conditions in prisons. These circumstances do not allow respect for human dignity. Thus, the objective of the project *Joining by Justice* is to put in place a mediation process as a basis for discussion directly after arrest and as a tool for conflict resolution. The pilot project proposed by Gontran at the correction center of Diébougou touches on four dimensions: the victim, the offender, the relationship between victim and offender, and, finally, the community. Training workshops on justice reparation and restorative mediation, combined with legal representation to 100 detainees and legal education campaigns for 150 inmates, seek to ultimately prevent torture and change the attitude of law enforcement officers to act in accordance with the law and human dignity. The police officer have to learn that a person who commits an offense will not be a criminal his or her whole life.

Making legal counsel accessible for detained individuals, Gontran's project places a particular emphasis on minors and juvenile justice.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR **SUPPORT!**



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