



ACTIVITY REPORT **FIACAT** 2018



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The International Federation of ACATs (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture), FIACAT, is an international, non-governmental, human rights organisation established in 1987 that works for the abolition of torture and the death penalty. The Federation comprises around thirty national associations, the ACATs, that are spread across four continents.

REPRESENTING ITS MEMBERS BEFORE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL BODIES

The FIACAT enjoys consultative status before the United Nations (UN), participatory status before the Council of Europe and has observer status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). The FIACAT is also an accredited organisation at the meetings of the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF).

By relaying the concerns of its members on the ground to the international bodies, the FIACAT advocates for the adoption by governments of important recommendations and their subsequent implementation. The FIACAT promotes adherence to international agreements that defend human rights, contributes to preventing acts of torture in places of detention, and fights enforced disappearances and impunity. It also plays an active role to combat the death penalty by encouraging states to remove this punishment from their statute books.

To amplify its voice on a broader scale, the FIACAT is a founding member of several action groups, including the World Coalition against the Death Penalty (WCADP), the International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED), the French Human Rights Platform (PDH) and the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN).

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE ACAT NETWORK

The FIACAT helps its member associations to develop and grow. It supports them in becoming vital stakeholders in civil society, with an ability to raise awareness in the public eye and impact the authorities in their countries.

It reinforces the network by organising events to promote exchange, planning regional and international workshops and training opportunities, and by undertaking a variety of other joint interventions on both a national and international level. The FIACAT directly promotes the work of the ACATs and provides them with a link to an international stage.

AN INDEPENDENT NETWORK OF CHRISTIANS WORKING FOR THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE AND THE DEATH PENALTY

The FIACAT raises awareness about torture and the problems surrounding the death penalty in churches and amongst other Christian organisations so as to encourage them to take action towards abolition.

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- GUIDING -

THE ACATS BEFORE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL BODIES

27

7

Support for 7 ACATs¹ before the United Nations and during the 62nd and 63rd Ordinary Sessions of the ACHPR

5

Trained 5 ACATs² on UN mechanisms and on how to encourage civil society to submit reports to the UN

10

Drafted 10 alternative reports³ for international bodies

5

Co-sponsored 5 side events

- ABOLISHING -

THE DEATH PENALTY

BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso removed the death penalty from its criminal code on 31 May 2018

BENIN

In February, Benin commuted the sentences of the 14 remaining prisoners condemned to death and removed all references to the death penalty from its statute book in June 2018

CHAD

Chad began revising Law 034/2015 on the punishment for acts of terrorism, which could pave the way towards the abolishment of the death once and for all

430

400

More than 400 people, from 44 different countries participated in the Regional Conference on the Death Penalty in Africa, held from 9 -10 April 2018 in Abidjan. The Conference was organised by the European Christian Political Movement (ECPM) in partnership with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, the FIACAT and the Côte d'Ivoire National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH-CI).

30

More than 30 representatives (Christian and Muslim clerics, members of civil society and individuals working in Human Rights and Foreign Affairs Ministries) in Mali were sensitised to the abolition of the death penalty.

¹ ACAT CAR, ACAT Chad, ACAT Congo, ACAT Côte d'Ivoire and ACAT Liberia

² ACAT Canada, ACAT CAR, ACAT Chad, ACAT Congo and ACAT Liberia,

³ Reports submitted with ACAT Benin, ACAT Canada, ACAT CAR, ACAT Chad, ACAT Congo, ACAT Côte d'Ivoire, ACAT DRC, ACAT Liberia, ACAT Niger and ACAT Senegal

- COMBATING - ABUSIVE PRE-TRIAL DETENTION

ACTIVITIES IN 5 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

(Congo-Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar)

96 representatives of civil society and 120 representatives from the court and prison administrative services were trained in respecting judicial safeguards **216**

14 different prisons were visited by ACAT members **14**

111 prison visits were carried out by ACAT activists and human rights lawyers **111**

341

3,294 PRISONERS WERE ASSISTED IN THEIR COURT PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING:

3006 cases of APD identified

2994 cases undertaken by lawyers

1718 cases settled

312 convicted

1697 released

3294

Source:

- The number of prisoners assisted as part of the APD project in Madagascar: 187 interviewed prisoners, 49 cases identified as involving APD, 37 cases undertaken by lawyers, 8 cases settled, 5 convicted and 3 released.
- The number of prisoners assisted as part of the APD project in Côte d'Ivoire: 538 interviewed prisoners, 538 cases identified as involving APD, 538 cases undertaken by lawyers, 45 convicted et 68 released.
- The number of prisoners assisted as part of the APD project in Congo: 485 interviewed prisoners, 335 cases identified as involving APD, 335 cases undertaken by lawyers, 151 convicted and 155 released.
- The number of prisoners assisted as part of the APD project in DRC: 2,084 cases identified as involving APD, 2,084 undertaken by lawyers, 1,471 released on bail, 432 cases sent for a date to be set for full investigation.



Six years after Brussels, the International Council (IC) was held in Abidjan providing the opportunity for delegates from the ACAT's global network to meet, exchange ideas and reflect together on how the FIACAT functions. It was an ideal occasion to celebrate, with due sobriety, yet great enthusiasm, the 30 years of the FIACAT's existence.

And so, from 11 -13 April 2018, the IC revised the FIACAT's statutes, adopted the new ACAT subscription rates, affiliated the ACAT Niger and recommended to the FIACAT's International Bureau that regular elections be held by ACAT Cameroon. These elections subsequently took place, resulting in the lifting of ACAT Cameroon's suspension in October 2018; the association has since re-joined the FIACAT.

In line with its action plan, the FIACAT has promoted three strategic areas of action during the course of the year.

The first, concerns the fight against torture and degrading treatment through a wide-ranging programme aimed at fighting «abusive pre-trial detention». It has been implemented in four countries in Africa: Congo-Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar. The results exceeded expectations by far. As a result in 2018, 1,697 individuals held on remand beyond the legal time limits were released. In view of the positive results, a fifth country, Chad, has now been included in the programme. Access to justice for those held in detention remains a major problem throughout the world. Accordingly, in December 2018 the FIACAT took part in an important meeting at the European Court of Human Rights on this very subject.

The second axis of our work centres around abolition of the death penalty. Since 2015, the FIACAT has been running a programme in partnership with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, to promote the abolition of the death penalty in 21 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. A discussion workshop was held in Abidjan on 9 April 2018. This meeting enabled us to assess the current situation and re-focus our fight towards abolition in Africa. We took away one lesson from this event: Africa is the next abolitionist continent.

These actions to ban torture and to abolish the death penalty would not be possible were it not for the training and awareness activities and the advocacy work that result in positive outcomes: for example, the abolition of the death penalty by Burkina Faso on 31 May 2018 and the increase in the number of states that voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution calling for a universal moratorium on capital executions (117 in 2016 and 121 in 2018).

Lastly, the third area of our work involves the FIACAT's support of the ACATs. This includes strengthening their abilities, accompanying them before regional and international bodies and relaying information about their campaigns. Sadly, 2018 was also the year that saw Germain Rukuki, an activist with ACAT Burundi, sentenced to 32 years in prison. Following this arbitrary conviction and while waiting for the outcome of the appeal hearing, the FIACAT and the ACATs have taken action and are hoping he will be released in 2019.

The FIACAT has reached the age of maturity and is only too aware of the many challenges still to face. Thanks to its network and sustained by its faith, the organisation continues to create channels of hope.

Paul ANGAMAN
President of the FIACAT

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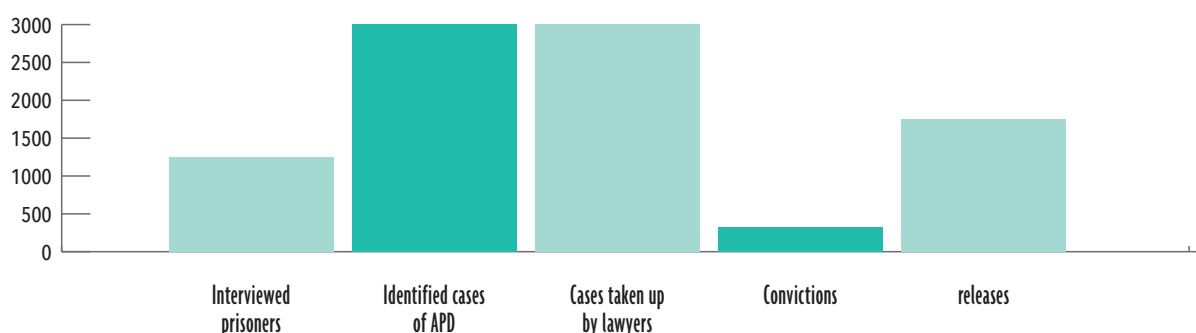
FIGHTING AGAINST TORTURE

THE APD PROGRAMME TO ASSIST THOSE FORGOTTEN BY THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

PRESENTATION

In 2018, the FIACAT and the ACATs kept up their commitment to support those forgotten by the justice system. The FIACAT's programme on Abusive Pre-Trial Detention (APD) is aimed at reducing prison overcrowding that can be as high as 400% of actual capacity in the prisons concerned, and thereby prevent torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading

treatment, as well as to fight against abusive pre-trial detention. APD involves imprisoning a person on remand in breach of legal measures that regulate this practice. In 2018, the programme continued in Côte d'Ivoire (10 prisons), in Congo-Brazzaville (2 prisons), in the Democratic Republic of Congo (1 prison) and in Madagascar (1 prison).



OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES

Half-way through the implementation of the APD project in Côte d'Ivoire, Congo-Brazzaville and Madagascar, the FIACAT and the ACATs organised follow-up workshops aimed at identifying obstacles in the fight against abusive pre-trial detention in these three countries. A number of themes were identified, in particular: systematic recourse to abusive pre-trial detention, the absence of time limits to renewing pre-trial detention in Côte

d'Ivoire, the lack of communication between the different institutions involved in the legal process, the specific case of proceedings being sent up to higher courts, problems involving access to legal aid and poor detention conditions. The participants in the working groups were able to discuss these problems and draft joint recommendations to deal with them. These workshops brought together 50 participants in Congo-Brazzaville, 131 in Côte

d'Ivoire and 51 in Madagascar involved in court and prison administration as well as members of civil society. These participants also initially contributed to the setting-up of the programme. The continued joint-work between representatives of civil society and court and prison administrators during these workshops is one of the measures of success for the programme, as it guarantees their shared engagement in the implementation of recommendations and best practices that were identified.



ACAT Madagascar handing out essential goods to mark 26 June 2019

RAISING AWARENESS TO A WIDER PUBLIC ABOUT PRISONERS' RIGHTS

The FIACAT and the ACATs' experience of African prison conditions has shown that any action to help detainees must be accompanied by active awareness campaigns aimed at influencing public opinion with the support of the media. The goal is to ease the reintegration of detainees into their communities and to ensure that the general population supports reform of the criminal justice sector to improve court administrative practices. To this end throughout the programme, the FIACAT and the ACATs engaged the media

and organised several sensitisation activities to showcase their activities and inform people about detainees' rights. In 2018, the activities of ACATs Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar were systematically covered in the press. The ACATs also organised awareness events to coincide with the International Day to Support Victims of Torture on 26 June. Lastly, ACAT Côte d'Ivoire has organised a monthly radio broadcast discussing the prison system and how justice is administered.

CHAD, THE LATEST APD-PROGRAMME TARGET COUNTRY

At the end of 2018, the FIACAT has - in partnership with ACAT Chad - extended its APD programme to Chad thanks to support from the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Development in Chad as part of the «Justice Support Programme - Phase 2» (PRAJUST 2). The programme will last 22 months in total and will target the three following prisons: N'Djamena, Moundou and Abéché.

ADVOCACY BEFORE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL BODIES

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE THREAT OF TERRORISM

- 10 DECEMBER 2018 CAMPAIGN -

To coincide with World Human Rights Day and the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the FIACAT and its network got together to reaffirm the importance of defending the total ban on torture in any circumstances, including in the fight against terrorism.

Over the last few years, the terrorist threat has become ever more present in our societies and on every continent. Even if states have an obligation to protect their citizens from this threat, any measures adopted need to meet individuals' human rights. However, the world has seen a proliferation of high-security measures being implemented: the declaration of exceptional circumstances in the

fight against terrorism, states of emergency, the bolstering of the role of the security services, and so on. While these measures are aimed at protecting citizens from attacks against their own human rights committed by terrorist groups, they increasingly infringe upon these same rights and the rule of law.

As a result, the FIACAT and the ACATs wanted to highlight that this approach is not only contrary to states' international obligations, but that it is also counterproductive. Indeed, these violations of human rights and the rule of law contribute to creating a climate of impunity and call into question the efficacy of the fight against terrorism.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR THOSE DETAINED IN EUROPE

From 6 - 7 December 2018, the FIACAT took part in a meeting - organised by the European Prison Litigation Network (EPLN) and several other stakeholders - entitled "Overcoming obstacles in access to justice and to the court by detainees: European perspectives" held at the European Court of Human Rights. This event - bringing together judges from the European Court of Human Rights, academics, representatives of public organisations, lawyers and health workers operating in prisons - enabled participants to assess how detainees access justice across European nations, the impact of austerity policies, counterterrorism measures

and action by civil society in this area.

The meeting also provided the opportunity to identify the impact of legislative reforms and European Court of Human Rights decisions on these questions. Lastly, and based on their discussions, the participants concluded their work by exploring other areas through which to improve the access to justice and courts by detainees which included pilot decisions by the European Court of Human Rights, European prison rules and opinions from the European Council for the Prevention of Torture (CPT).

THE APPROPRIATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ACTION PLAN BY LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

Seven representatives from seven different African ACATs attended the 20th European Union NGO forum (EU-NGO forum) "Defending universality: making human rights a reality", held from 21-22 November in Brussels. These human rights defenders shared their concerns with the European Union's and civil society representatives from around the world and to mark 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

One of the challenges facing the ACAT members was to respond to the obstacles surrounding the

external implementation of the European Union's human rights policies according to the contexts and situations of each individual country. In this way, the presentations, exchanges and debates facilitated preparations for the next European Union Human Rights action plan so that national strategies can be drafted, whilst ensuring that it encompasses issues that lie close to the heart of ACAT activists such as the abolition of the death penalty and the fight against torture.

"I participated in high-level discussions on current issues concerning human rights and I now have a far greater understanding of the network of NGOs and of the initiatives that promote and defend human rights in Africa as well as elsewhere in the world."

Eric-Roland KOUDADJA

General Secretary of ACAT Benin



The FIACAT at the UE-NGO Forum - November 2018

⁴ ACATs Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Togo.

ACAT CANADA ADVOCATES FOR THE INADMISSIBILITY
OF CONFESSIONS OBTAINED BY TORTURE,
IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE

Several Canadian ministerial directions entitled "Avoiding Complicity in Mistreatment by Foreign Entities" issued in 2017 for the various security services in Canada include an exception that poses problems regarding the inadmissibility of confessions obtained by torture. Although recalling the absolute ban on torture, the directions state that: "Information that was likely obtained through mistreatment may not be used [...] to deprive someone of their rights or freedoms, except where [a senior official designated by a competent Canadian authority] authorises such use because it is necessary to prevent loss of life or significant personal injury." Having joined ACAT Switzerland in a campaign in connection with Good Friday 2018 on the

topic "Torture is never justified!", ACAT Canada, along with the FIACAT, presented an alternative report to the Committee on Torture during Canada's review. In this report, the FIACAT and the ACAT drew the experts' attention to this exception which ran counter to the provisions of the Convention against Torture. Thus, in its final observations the Committee called upon Canada to take effective steps to ensure that in practice, confessions obtained under torture or mistreatment were deemed inadmissible. It also demanded the repeal of any direction authorising the use of information, by law enforcement agencies, likely to have been obtained by torture and/or mistreatment by a third-party State.



Advocacy undertaken by members of ACAT Chad, Congo and CAR during the October 2018 UPR pre-session

CRIMINALISATION OF TORTURE AT THE HEART
OF THE ACATS' ADVOCACY
AT THE 31ST UPR PRE-SESSION

In October 2018, three members from ACAT Congo-Brazzaville, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad took part in an advocacy mission to Geneva during the UPR pre-sessions of their countries. Accompanied by the FIACAT, they stressed the importance of considering torture a crime at national level, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention against Torture. In fact, Congo-Brazzaville has still not made torture a crime and the new Penal Code which was supposed to address this legal loophole is still awaited. Although Chad and the CAR have

admittedly made torture a crime in their national legislation, criminalisation remains unsatisfactory since there is no official definition of the offence in the CAR and there is no provision for the crime to be imprescriptible in either country. Furthermore, on-the-ground, the provisions are neither applied nor respected owing to a lack of training for law and order officials and a failure to publicise the provisions. This advocacy did, however, bear fruit in that several recommendations have been addressed by Member States in connection with the UPR for the country in question.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE: STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION WITH
THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES'
RIGHTS TO IMPROVE DETENTION CONDITIONS

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CAMPAIGNING TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

Since 2015, the FIACAT, together with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, has been conducting a programme for abolition of the death penalty in Africa. The programme is specifically geared to strengthening the members of the two networks in 21 sub-Saharan countries.

DETENTION CONDITIONS ON DEATH ROW A DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN LIBERIA

During the 37th session of the Human Rights Council, the FIACAT, the Advocates for Human Rights, the World Coalition against the Death Penalty and Together against the Death Penalty (ECPM) held a side event on "*the Death Penalty and Detention Conditions*". A representative from ACAT Liberia described the situation in his country, denouncing in particular, the poor conditions in Liberian prisons and the anxiety felt by those condemned to death at the thought that they might be executed from one day to the next, despite the moratorium on executions in that country. This anxiety is one component of

what is known as "death row syndrome", which on various occasions has been described as torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment by international and regional human rights organisations. Finally, this event provided an opportunity to present the theme of the next World Day against the Death Penalty on 10 October 2018 - detention conditions on death row- and the tools available. an opportunity to present the theme of the next World Day against the Death Penalty on 10 October 2018 - detention conditions on death row- and the tools available.

REGIONAL CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

The Regional Congress against the Death Penalty in Africa was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 9-10 April 2018 and was attended by over 400 participants from 44 different countries.

The Congress was organised by the ECPM, along with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, the FIACAT and the National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire (CNDHCI). Two days of discussions, meetings and a social/cultural evening allowed the participants to build strengthen their capability and build their networks with a view to eliminating the death penalty on the African continent. The Congress also marked 30 years of the FIACAT's existence.

A workshop to take stock of the abolitionist movement in Africa took place on 9 April,

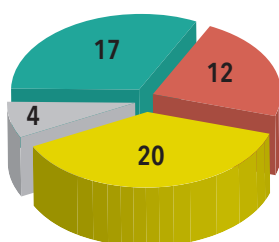
providing a forum to discuss the abolitionist programme pursued since 2015 by the FIACAT and the World Coalition against the Death Penalty. The aim was to reunite the programme's stakeholders and those who had played an active role order to better understand their expectations for the continuation of the project. Participants held discussions in working groups formed according to geographical zones and the situation regarding the death penalty in their country, so that each group addressed common issues. A new plan of action on the death penalty emerged from these discussions and will be carried out during the next phase of the programme 2018-2021.

ADVOCACY MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

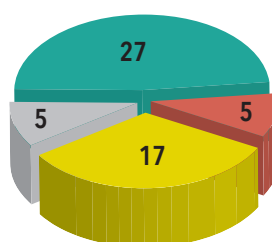
In December, the FIACAT conducted a UN advocacy mission in New York to encourage the states of the Africa Group to vote for the UN resolution for a universal moratorium on the death penalty. This mission provided assurance

that The Gambia and Niger would vote in favour of the resolution. Unfortunately, certain abolitionist countries such as Congo-Brazzaville, Guinea and Senegal abstained or were not present at the vote.

*Votes on the resolution
62/149/2007*



*Votes on the resolution
73/589 (2018)*



■ For
■ Against
■ Abstentions
■ Absents

PANEL ON THE DEATH PENALTY IN AFRICA AT THE 62ND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ACHPR

On 27 April, the Working Group on the Death Penalty in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), together with the World Coalition, the FIACAT and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), arranged a panel on the death penalty in Africa. This allowed Mrs Teresa Mutua of ICJ-Kenya to report on the results of the Regional Congress against the Death Penalty held in April. Mrs Fatima Mbaye, President of the Mauritanian Association for Human Rights (AMDH) and Mr Ariyo Popoola of LEDAP described the challenges of achieving abolition in their respective countries, Mauritania and Nigeria. The opportunity was taken to target the country hosting the session and a state whose periodic report was scrutinised during the session. Finally, Mr Paul Angaman, President of the FIACAT, presented a draft of the Additional Protocol to the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights on abolition of the death penalty in Africa and urged the Member States of the

African Union to support it or at least to refrain from voting against it.

The Justice Minister of Burkina Faso, Mr Bessolé René Bagoro, then announced that a draft of the new criminal code adopted by the government of Burkina Faso in March provided for abolition and would be debated by the National Assembly on 24 May. The representative of The Gambia also drew attention to that country's commitments to abolition.



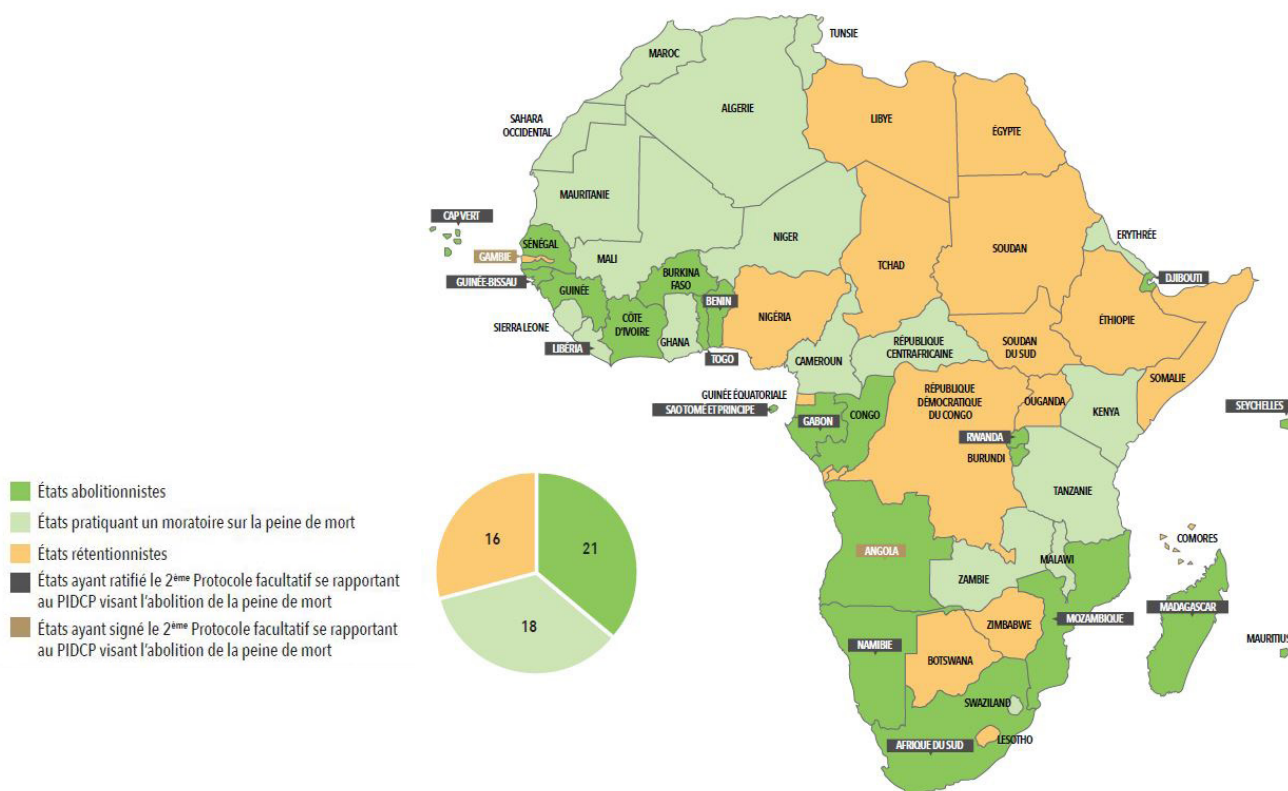
Capitalisation workshop for the Death Penalty Programme

PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION DAY ON THE DEATH PENALTY IN NIGER

In October 2014, the Niger government approved a bill authorising Niger's accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at abolition of the death penalty. However, the tension created by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb has slowed down the abolitionist process. The government does not wish to push abolition through by decree. The FIACAT, in partnership with the Abolitionist Movement in Niger, and the Parliamentary Human Rights Network, therefore organised a Parliamentary Information Day on the Death Penalty on 17 March in the debating chamber of the National Assembly in Niamey. The event brought together parliamentarians and members of civil society that actively campaign

for abolition, along with traditional and religious leaders to discuss the role of parliamentarians in abolition of the death penalty.

"Killing for the sake of killing is alien to our culture. After all, there has not been an execution in Niger in the last 40 years. The factors favouring the death penalty have ceased to apply," according to Mrs Barmo Rabi Hadjia Dan FARI, Chair of the Parliamentary Human Rights Network. While some members of parliament feared that eliminating the death penalty would lead to an increase in crime and argued the need for deterrence, most of those attending this meeting seemed convinced of the need to move towards abolition.



The Death Penalty in Africa - June 2018

PARLIAMENTARY AWARENESS WORKSHOP ON ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN MALI

Mali has had a de-facto moratorium on executions since 1980, but this penalty still features in the Criminal Code and the list of capital crimes is long. A bill for abolition was tabled in the National Assembly in October 2007 but has never been passed. Parliament has refused to accept the political responsibility in order to avoid offending a section of public opinion and religious leaders. To convince the Malian parliamentarians of the case for abolition, the FIACAT and the ACAT

Mali held an awareness workshop for members of parliament from 12-13 June. This was attended by Christian and Muslim clerics, civil society and representatives of the Ministry of Human Rights and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This workshop strengthened the capabilities of over 30 participants and identified support in parliament and the various ministries for the abolition process in Mali.

CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY IN CHAD

In partnership with the FIACAT, the ACAT Chad celebrated the 16th World Day against the Death Penalty by holding a round-table on abrogation of Act 034/2015 on combating terrorism in Chad.

ACAT Chad decided raise awareness to the judicial anomalies associated with retaining the death penalty in the Anti-Terrorism Act even though the national Criminal Code does not provide for the death penalty for ordinary crimes. Thus, on 27 August, four Chadians were sentenced to death on the basis of that act for the murder of a Chinese shopkeeper in June. The murderers were condemned by the Court of Appeal for terrorist activities. As of yet, they have not been executed. Partly as a result of this meeting, the Ministry of

Justice will hold a workshop in February 2019 to review Act 034. The ACAT Chad will take part.



Meeting with Niger's National Commission for Human Rights - March 2018

SUPPORTING THE ACATs

CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF GERMAIN RUKUKI

Germain Rukuki, formerly on the staff of the ACAT Burundi, was arrested by the intelligence services on 13 July 2017 due to his work with the ACAT. His trial, originally scheduled for 13 February 2018, had to be postponed owing to fresh charges and his lawyers' failure to gain access to his file. Following his trial on 3 April 2018, the verdict was finally pronounced on 26 April 2018: he was condemned to 32 years' imprisonment by the Ntahangwa Regional Court for the crimes of rebellion, endangering the internal security of the State, taking part in an insurrectional movement and an attack on the Head of State. This sentence, one of the severest ever passed on a human rights defender in Burundi, is the result of an arbitrary procedure riddled with flagrant irregularities. On 29 May 2018 Germain entered an appeal against this sentence, which was heard on 26 November 2018.

In view of this arbitrary sentence and pending the appeal verdict, the FIACAT and the ACATs have continued their action in support of Germain, appealing to the international community to take up his case. Throughout the year the ACATs and the FIACAT have kept up publicity on the social networks and at meetings of the ACHPR and the

Human Rights Council. They have also appealed to the Chair of the Burundi Configuration of the Peace Consolidation Commission, notably at a meeting in New York in December 2018, to defend Germain's case during talks with the Burundian authorities.

The FIACAT and the ACATs remain active in their support for Germain.



Germain Rukuki - former employee of ACAT Burundi condemned to 32 years in prison

THE FIACAT'S INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

On the occasion of the Regional Congress against the Death Penalty and the stock-taking workshop for the three year programme on the death penalty in Africa, the FIACAT held its International Council from 11-13 April 2018 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, also marking its 30 year anniversary.

23 of the 26 affiliated ACATs were able to take part in the Council. Although the ACATs Ghana and Niger, in the process of affiliation at the time, they also took part in the discussions.

In addition to the statutory votes, the FIACAT statutes and rules of procedure were revised and new rules were adopted for calculating affiliated ACAT subscription rates. The Council also asked the FIACAT International Bureau to put its weight behind the holding of regular elections within the ACAT Cameroon and to supervise the electoral process so that the ACAT could join the network. The ACAT Cameroon was finally able to join the affiliated ACATs in October 2018.

Finally, the ACAT Niger became affiliated to the FIACAT network following a unanimous vote at the International Council.



The FIACAT's International Council - April 2018

TRAINING THE ACAT CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND THE ACAT LIBERIA ON THE UN MECHANISMS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

During of the review of Liberia by the Human Rights Committee and the examination of the Côte d'Ivoire during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the FIACAT and the ACATs Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire prepared alternative reports for UN experts and permanent missions to the UN in Geneva to express their concerns.

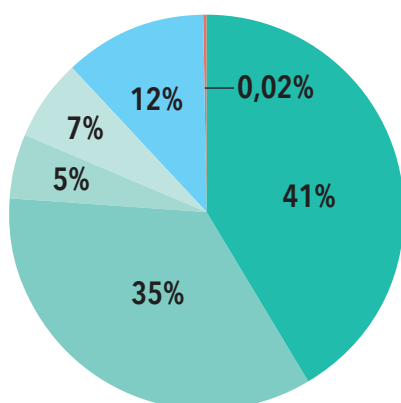
Prior to drafting of the report for Côte d'Ivoire's UPR, the FIACAT organised (remotely) a training for the ACAT members involved in order to familiarise them with the UN mechanism and explain what contributions civil society can make and what the impact could be.

Similarly, a member of ACAT Liberia undertook a mission to Geneva for the examination of Liberia by the Human Rights Committee, the FIACAT provided training on the functioning of the different United Nations human rights mechanisms, their differences and the possibilities for civil society to intervene in these mechanisms.

FIACAT'S FINANCES IN 2018

EXPENSES

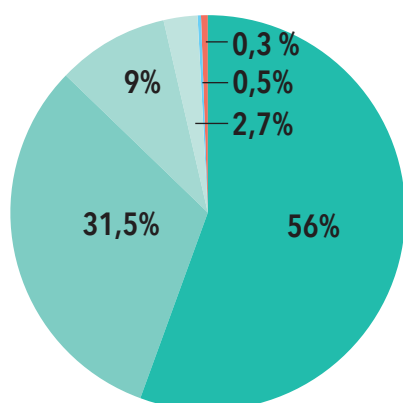
710 721



The Abusive Pre-trial Detention Programme	294 237 €
The Abolition of the Death Penalty Programme in Africa	247 793 €
International Advocacy	38 100 €
Provision of dedicated funds for activities in 2019	46 856 €
Overhead	83 590 €
Exceptional financial expenses	145 €
Total	717 229 €

INCOME

717 229



Grants and Project-related donations	400 226 €
Carry-over of dedicated funds received in 2017	226 289 €
ACAT membership fees	65 459 €
Donations	19 977 €
Other incomes	2 928 €
Exceptional financial revenue	2 351 €
Total	710 721 €

"Thanks to our partners, members and donors, 2018 saw a high level of activity and a positive result of €6,508, which will be very useful for a year 2019 whose resources are still insufficiently secured. In October 2018, the FIACAT's International Bureau adopted Guidelines for Private Sector Funds to define a private sector fundraising policy."

Benoît Théry, Treasurer

THE FIACAT GRACIOUSLY THANKS ITS PRIVATE DONORS, WHO REGULARLY SUPPORTED ITS ACTIVITIES IN 2018.

The FIACAT also thanks its institutional partners who for years have been encouraging and supporting its efforts in the fight for the abolition of torture and the death penalty:

- French Development Agency (AFD)
- Delegation of the European Union to the African Union (Addis-Ababa)
- Delegation of the European Union to Côte d'Ivoire
- The European Union together with the Ministry of Economy and Development Planning of Chad under "Projet d'appui à la Justice- Phase 2» (PRAJUST 2)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg
- The Endowment Fund of the Paris Bar
- International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF)
- Foundation of the ACAT France
- Tavola Valdese (Italie)
- Missio (Allemagne)
- CCFD-Terre solidaire (France)

SUPPORT THE FIACAT AND MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO A WORLD WITHOUT TORTURE!

BY BANK TRANSFER:

Bank name:

Bank name : BRED – Vincennes

Account Name : FED INTERNATIONALE ACAT

96 boulevard de la Libération

94300 - Vincennes (France)

Swift Code : BREDFRPPXXX

IBAN : FR76 1010 7002 2800 9130 5896 718

BY CHEQUE:

Beneficiary : The FIACAT

Mail to :

FIACAT

96 boulevard de la Libération

94300, Vincennes - France

For France, according to the Finance Act 2003, the reduction of your income tax is 66% of your donation up to a limit of 20% of your taxable income. A receipt will be sent to you at the beginning of the year.

BUREAU INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL BUREAU



Paul ANGAMAN (Côte d'Ivoire) :
Président, responsable de l'animation des ACAT
de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et des relations avec
la Commission africaine des droits de l'homme
et des peuples (CADHP)
*President, manages relations with the West African
ACATs and the ACHPR*



Benoît THERY (France) :
Trésorier
Treasurer



Massimo CORTI (Italie / *Italy*) :
Responsable des relations avec les Églises
Manages relations with Churches



Claire DORAN (Canada) :
Responsable de l'animation des ACAT
des Amériques et d'Asie
*Manages relations with the American
and Asian ACATs*



Jean-Bernard MARIE (France) :
Responsable des relations avec les Nations Unies
et l'Union européenne
*Manages the FIACAT's Programmes
and the relations with the Council of Europe*



Jean-Daniel VIGNY (Suisse / *Switzerland*) :
Responsable des programmes de la FIACAT
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*Manages the FIACAT's Programmes
and the relations with the Council of Europe*



Michel KALEMBA (RDC / *DRC*) :
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*Manages relations with the Central African
and Madagascar ACATs*



Jusqu'au 1^{er} mai 2018
Émilie PETITGUYOT (Belgique / *Belgium*) :
Trésorière et responsable de l'animation du réseau
des ACAT européennes
Treasurer, manages of relations with the European ACATs



Jusqu'au 30 septembre 2018
Sabrina BIGNIER (Paris) :
Directrice exécutive
Executive Director

SECRÉTARIAT SECRETARIAT



Guillaume COLIN (Paris) :
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Executive Director



Lionel GRASSY (Bruxelles / *Brussels*) :
Directeur du plaidoyer
Advocacy Director



Marie SALPHATI (Genève / *Geneva*) :
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*Permanent Representative to the United
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Mahamadou DIOP (Paris) :
Assistant comptable
Assistant accountant

STAGIAIRES ET BÉNÉVOLES INTERN AND VOLUNTEERS

La FIACAT remercie les stagiaires Thiphaine Mathieu et Mathieu Pourchier et les bénévoles - notamment M. Robert Zuber (Représentant auprès des Nations unies à New York) et Mme Emmanuelle Thiebaut (recherche de fonds privés) - qui collaborent avec elle depuis des années et lui permettent de mener à bien ses missions.

The FIACAT wishes to thank the interns Thiphaine Mathieu et Mathieu Pourchier and the volunteers - including Mr. Robert Zuber (Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York) and Ms. Emmanuelle Thiebaut (private fundraising) - who have been working with us for years, and who have made our achievements possible.

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* ACAT en cours d'affiliation / ACAT not yet affiliated