



ACTIVITY REPORT **FIACAT** **2019**





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Cover legend

- Review of Niger by the Human rights Committee (Switzerland), March 2019
- DPA capitalization workshop (Madagascar), December 2019
- Review of Benin by the Committee against Torture (Switzerland), May 2019
- Pre-session of the Universal Periodic Review of Italy (Switzerland), October 2019
- Advocacy for the Universal Periodic Review of Côte d'Ivoire (Switzerland), April 2019
- Training on African Human Rights Mechanisms (The Gambia), October 2019

Cover 4 legend

- Review of Niger by the Human Rights Committee (Switzerland), March 2019
- Advocacy for the Universal Periodic Review of Italy and Madagascar (Switzerland), October 2019
- Press conference on the DPA project (Madagascar), December 2019
- Meetings of the European ACATs (Spain), October 2019
- World Congress Against the Death Penalty (Belgium), February 2019



The International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture, FIACAT, is an international Christian non-governmental human rights organisation, set up in 1987, which works towards the abolition of torture and the death penalty. The Federation brings together some thirty national associations, the ACATs, present in four continents.

REPRESENTING ITS MEMBERS IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The FIACAT enjoys Consultative Status with the United Nations (UN), Participative Status with the Council of Europe and Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). The FIACAT is also accredited to the International Organisation of la Francophonie (OIF).

By referring the concerns of its members, who work in the field, to international bodies, the FIACAT encourages the adoption of relevant recommendations and their implementation by governments. The FIACAT works towards the application of international human rights conventions, the prevention of torture in places of detention, and to end enforced disappearances and impunity. It also campaigns against the death penalty by calling on states to abolish capital punishment in their legal systems.

To give added impact to these efforts, the FIACAT is a founding member of several campaigning coalitions, in particular the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) and the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN).

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF THE ACAT NETWORK IN THIRTY COUNTRIES

The FIACAT assists its member associations in an organisational capacity, providing support so that they can become key players in civil society, capable of raising public awareness and influencing authorities in their country.

The FIACAT coordinates the network by promoting exchanges, proposing regional and international training events and joint campaigns, thus supporting the activities of the ACATs and providing them with exposure on the international scene.

AN INDEPENDENT NETWORK OF CHRISTIANS UNITED TO FIGHT TORTURE AND THE DEATH PENALTY

The FIACAT's mission is to awaken churches and Christian organisations to the problems of torture and the death penalty and convince them to act.

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- STRENGTHENING -

ACAT ACTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA

28	Partners trained in ACHPR mechanisms and the NGO Forum
40	Partners trained in advocacy for abolition of the death penalty
10	ACATs assisted in their advocacy before the United Nations in Geneva
9	ACATs attended the 64 th and 65 th ordinary sessions of the ACHPR
15	Alternative reports drafted and submitted to international bodies
5	Side events co-sponsored during the 64 th and 65 th ordinary sessions of the ACHPR and the 41 st and 42 nd sessions of the UN Human Rights Council

- ABOLISHING -

THE DEATH PENALTY

BENIN

Benin promulgated a new Constitution in 2019, explicitly abolishing the death penalty

CONGO

In February 2019, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Congo announced that his country would work towards ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty

58

30	In Liberia, more than 30 opinion leaders were sensitized to abolition of the death penalty
13	In Brussels, 13 ACATs participated in the 7th World Congress Against the Death Penalty
15	More than 15 ACATs organised special events for the 17th World Day Against the Death Penalty

- COMBATING -

ABUSIVE PRE-TRIAL DETENTION

5 Country-based programmes undertaken in Sub-Saharan Africa (Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar)

14 Prisons visited by ACAT members

298 Persons from civil society and judicial and prison services trained on the prevention of torture and judicial safeguards

445 Prison visits carried out by referring lawyers and ACAT activists

2 492 Detainees released (on bail or definitively)

247 Detainees convicted

1 293 Detainee cases under legal proceeding

4794

ADVANCING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Efforts to abolish the death penalty and prohibit torture coincide with many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The FIACAT seeks to promote, in particular:



ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES FOR ALL

Overcrowded prisons result in conditions that are contrary to international standards and are conducive to the spread of contagious diseases. Efforts to reduce pre-trial detention decrease overcrowding, thus improving prisoners' health and hygiene. Additionally, for those condemned to death, the death row syndrome affects their mental and physical health, amounting to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Abolition of capital punishment counters this phenomenon.



ENSURE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

Conscious of the importance of education and human rights training in preventing violations, the FIACAT incorporates tailored training and awareness-raising activities in all of its actions.



END ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Wherever the FIACAT is active, special attention is paid to ensure the fair gender representation of persons attending and speaking at workshops, in the recruitment of coordinators and consultants, and in the composition of the volunteer teams that carry-out field activities.



REDUCE INEQUALITY

Social and economic inequalities impair access to justice for prisoners and especially those condemned to death. The FIACAT ensures that the rules for administering pre-trial detention are equally applied to everyone without discrimination. The FIACAT fights for the abolition of the death penalty to counter the effect of such inequalities and to ensure equal access to rights.



BUILD EFFECTIVE STATE INSTITUTIONS AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

The FIACAT aims to strengthen the judicial system by improving cooperation between authorities, the judicial and prison services, and civil society to prevent torture and abolish the death penalty.



REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Cooperation between the judicial and prison services and civil society is central to the programme to combat abusive pre-trial detention and prevent torture in detention. Traditional chiefs and religious leaders, the media, parliamentarians, representatives of government and civil society organisations have a key part to play in abolishing capital punishment and are active participants in the FIACAT's activities.



2016-2019 - Four years on!

It is now four years since the ACATs had mandated the International Bureau to further the FIACAT's progress along the three axes of the 2016-2019 strategic plan. It is therefore time to take stock.

*The FIACAT has been active with regard to its **international and regional representation**. It has regularly supported the ACATs before the United Nations when their states are reviewed by the*

treaty bodies, submitted alternative reports and organised side events. At the regional level, before the Council of Europe, the European Union and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the FIACAT is known for its expertise on torture, ill-treatment and the death penalty. The FIACAT is thus regularly consulted on the drafting or revision of guidelines, general observations or opinions.

*The FIACAT strategically utilises international, regional and programmatic meetings to **build the capacity of the ACATs**. The World Congress Against the Death Penalty, meetings of the European ACATs, sessions of the ACHPR and workshops with opinion makers provide opportunities for the FIACAT to organise trainings for the ACATs and their local partners in various fields: submission of alternative reports, project management, and advocacy. These specialised training sessions have resulted not only in strengthening the profile of the FIACAT by increasing the number of reports submitted to international and regional institutions but has also boosted the FIACAT's credibility and good project management and empowered several ACATs.*

*The final axis concerns the **sustainability of the FIACAT's actions**. The Statutes and Rules of Procedure have been revised. Development of the network has mainly consisted of its consolidation. The website has been renewed, but there is a need for an effective communication strategy in order to enhance the FIACAT's visibility. The accounts have been positive for the last four years. Recognition is due to the International Secretariat, which has undergone a change in continuity, and grown stronger with the addition of new members to cope with the increasing volume of activity. Despite this, the Bureau has not achieved all the objectives set in 2016 and has not met all the expectations of its members. There are further challenges ahead and we shall rise to them together. I should like to thank our partners, all the members of the network and the thousands of volunteers and supporters throughout the world, who, inspired by faith and hope, sustain the **FIACAT's onward march**!*

Paul ANGAMAN
FIACAT President

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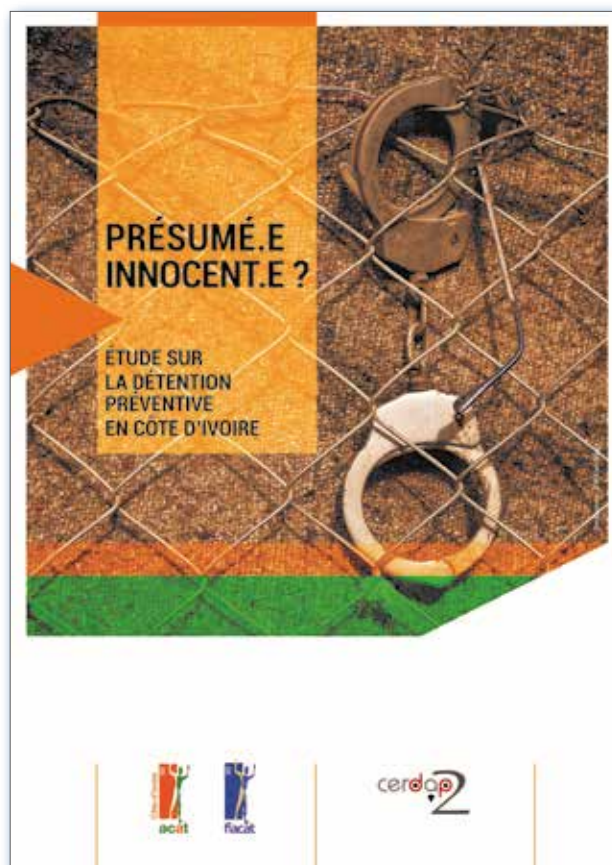
COMBATING TORTURE

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY, JUDICIAL AND PRISON STAFF AND THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE RESPECT FOR JUDICIAL SAFEGUARDS

"PRESUMED INNOCENT? A STUDY OF PRE-TRIAL DETENTION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE"

The public administration of justice in Côte d'Ivoire has a direct impact on abusive pre-trial detention. While international human rights instruments do not prohibit pre-trial detention, they do stipulate that freedom is the rule and imprisonment the exception. It is therefore the legal and material conditions governing pre-trial detention which contribute directly to prison overcrowding. Data was collected from the field by ACAT activists and analysed by a multidisciplinary team of researchers from the laboratory CERDAP² Science Po Grenoble. The findings are detailed in the publication **"Présumé.e innocent.e ? Étude sur la détention préventive en Côte d'Ivoire"** (Presumed innocent? A study of pre-trial detention in Côte d'Ivoire), which provides a basis for future reflection on a new approach to penal policy.

The study's main finding shows that legal analysis must evaluate and consider the social attitudes that surround pre-trial detention and the judicial practices inherent in its virtually systematic use. Taking into account all of the issues at stake that pertain to pre-trial detention, it is necessary to regard it within the wider context of penal reform and to consider "prison" as a political project. The study thus highlighted the dynamics which local actors may be able to strengthen, complement and create in order to further their activities in the promotion of and respect for judicial safeguards.



AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ABUSIVE PREVENTIVE DETENTION IN AFRICA: THE CONGO, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, MADAGASCAR

When the National Coordinators for the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar came to Paris, France, for an internal evaluation of the APD programme, the FIACAT organised a Paris-based event for stakeholders, supporters of the programme and the wider public. This event allowed the three National Coordinators to share their experiences, present their project from a local prospective and report on the activities of human rights defenders in their countries. They were able to describe, first-hand, their prison monitoring

activities, how they support national authorities who work on reform and implement public policy and their experiences in the strengthening of synergies with the prison service.

The event not only provided a clear insight into the day-to-day realities that human rights defenders face, it also was an opportunity to share the successes of the programme and foster a collective South-North solidarity.

STATISTICS OF ACAT ACTION IN PRISONS BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2017 AND NOVEMBER 2019

		COTE D'IVOIRE		MADAGASCAR	CONGO	
		Abidjan central prison (MACA)	Abengourou, Agboville, Adzopé, Daloa, Bouaké, Toumodi, Sassandra Soubre, Grand-Bassam and Abidjan central prisons	Antanimora central prison	Brazzaville prison	Pointe Noire prison
SITUATION IN FEBRUARY 2017	Number of prisoners*	4577**	6362**	3297	921	366
	Number of pre-trial prisoners*	2577** (i.e. 56%)	3119** (i.e. 51%)	1649 (i.e. 50%)	816 (i.e. 89%)	299 (i.e. 82%)
SITUATION IN NOVEMBER 2019	Number of prisoners*	7 623	11 724	4 240	938	520
	Number of pre-trial prisoners*	2 243 (i.e. 30%)	3820 (i.e. 33%)	2 124 (i.e. 50%)	794 (i.e. 85%)	400 (i.e. 77%)
ACAT ACTION IN THE COURSE OF THE PROJECT	Number of ACAT visits	33	816	11	84 ¹	
	Number of APD cases identified and handled by the ACAT	478 (i.e. 21% of remand prisoners)	1636 (i.e. 43% of remand prisoners)	47 (i.e. 1.6% of remand prisoners)	544 (i.e. 45% of remand prisoners)	
	No of prisoners released	111 ²	268 ³	17	360 ⁴	
	No of prisoners convicted	20	142	11	90	
	No of cases settled and in progress	346	1226	19	154	

* Statistics supplied by the prison services to the assessment mission and/or the ACATs. N.B. These figures change from day to day as prisoners arrive and depart.

** Data as of March 31, 2016.

EVALUATING THE ABUSIVE PRE-TRIAL DETENTION (APD) PROGRAMME

In order to take stock of its APD programme in the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar and to incorporate lessons learned for the extension of a second phase, the FIACAT enlisted two external evaluators. The assessment highlighted the project's pertinence and indicated that it addresses a real need at a national level. Further, the evaluators stressed that the ACATs are the only civil society organisations on-the-ground using a collaborative approach to provide legal support for remand prisoners and in providing assistance to the different actors of the penal process. The programme has strengthened their partners' capacities, as the ACATs have established themselves as key stakeholders for the improvement of prison conditions. The evaluators also noted that, while the statistics show that the prison population has increased in all the target prisons, the percentage of prisoners in pre-trial detention fell in both Côte d'Ivoire and the Congo. In Madagascar,

although the figures are much lower, the project laid the foundations for future development. Changes in codes, the issuance of circulars and official statements, inter alia at the highest levels of state, reflect a political will to limit the use of pre-trial detention. Such progress had an impact going well-beyond the target prisons, reaching all detention centres in the countries concerned.



¹ This number includes visits to investigating magistrates' offices and socio-legal services.

² Including 85 on bail.

³ Including 220 on bail.

⁴ This number comprises 165 prisoners released in April 2018 by the deputy prosecutor, including 30 cases of abusive APD identified by the ACAT, and 270 prisoners released after lawyers' representations to magistrates.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE DRAFTING AND FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL BODIES CONCERNING TORTURE AND CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

THEMATIC BRIEFING TO THE COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE



At the 68th session of the Committee Against Torture on 22 November, the FIACAT organised a thematic briefing on access to places of detention by human rights NGOs. During the event, representatives from the ACATs Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, France and Madagascar, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the French Controller-General of Prisons addressed the Committee's experts to highlight the contribution made by NGOs in the monitoring of various places of deprivation of liberty and their complementarity to the work of the ICRC or the national torture prevention mechanisms. This briefing also focused upon the difficulties encountered by civil society in obtaining access to such places and in carrying-out their visits effectively. The purpose of this event was to ensure that the Committee's experts were aware of these

obstacles, so that they could be taken into account during the reviews of the States.



THE FIACAT JOINS THE MIGRATION TASK FORCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF INGOs OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



The Conference of INGOs had established a Migration Task Force to monitor the situation of migration and express the views of its members in this regard. Throughout their journeys, migrants are at risk of suffering torture and ill-treatment. In 2019, the FIACAT joined the Task

Force to share the concerns of its members on this issue. During the 30th anniversary of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture on 4 November 2019, the FIACAT's concerns were successfully relayed through the President of the Conference.

- UN COUNTRY FOCUS: ITALY -

COMBATING TORTURE - THE FIACAT AND ACAT ITALY AT THE 34TH PRE-SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

For the UPR pre-session on Italy, a representative of ACAT Italy travelled to Geneva, Switzerland, in October to carry out an advocacy mission with the FIACAT. In addition to participating in the UPR pre-session, the ACAT's representative was able to undertake bilateral meetings with more than twenty permanent missions to the United Nations in Geneva. During the meetings, problems which beset detention (overcrowding, suicides, imprisonment of mothers with their children, etc.), incomplete criminalisation of torture, use of excessive force by law

enforcement officers, reception conditions for migrants and consideration of asylum applications, and the lack of a national human rights institution were raised as critical issues. These subjects were subsequently taken up extensively in Italy's UPR in November. The FIACAT and the ACAT will pay particular attention to the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations arising from the review.

PANEL ON ABUSIVE PRE-TRIAL DETENTION AT THE 64TH SESSION OF THE ACHPR



At the 64th session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the FIACAT along with the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa, organised a panel on the monitoring of prisons by civil society organisations as a means of preventing torture.

During the course of the panel, participants were briefed on the developments of the APD programme conducted by the FIACAT in Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Madagascar. The presentation highlighted the added value of human rights NGOs in the monitoring of detention facilities.

The participants were able to compare their experiences and stressed the importance of creating synergies among the various actors of the penal process in different countries.

These discussions served to encourage:

- the ACHPR to ask the States regularly for information on NGO monitoring of places of detention;
- all competent authorities to reduce the difficulties in obtaining access to such places;
- the States to facilitate visits by NGOs.



ADOPTION OF THE REVISED TORTURE GUIDELINES BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



The EU guidelines on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment were revised in 2019. The FIACAT actively followed and accompanied this revision process through numerous discussions and position statements at meetings with the FIACAT's technical partners at the EU. Although the guidelines are not legally binding, they constitute a strong political signal indicating that combating torture is a priority for the EU and its Member States in their relations with external countries. For the first time, the revised guidelines urge member

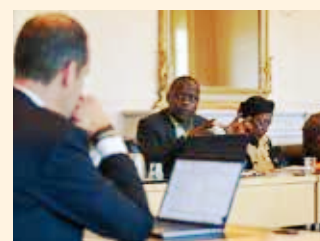
states to prevent torture in places of deprivation of liberty by taking measures to «*comply with safeguards and procedures relating to detention*» and «*allow visits by representatives of civil society and other independent bodies such as National Preventive Mechanisms (NPM), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI)...*». Finally, they point out that «*non-compliance with standards of detention conditions as defined in the relevant international and regional framework can amount to ill-treatment or even torture*».

- UN COUNTRY FOCUS: SENEGAL -

SENEGAL: IMPROVEMENT OF PRISON CONDITIONS FOR BETTER COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Senegal's 5th periodic report was reviewed by the UN Human Rights Committee in October 2019. For the occasion, the President of ACAT Senegal travelled to Geneva, Switzerland, to share his concerns with the experts of the Committee. In addition to speaking about the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the repression of demonstrations, the advocacy of the FIACAT and ACAT Senegal focused on prison conditions in that country. In view of severe prison

overcrowding, a high number of pre-trial detainees, the poor condition of the buildings and the number of deaths in detention, the Committee recommended that the Senegalese government conduct inquiries into such deaths and take all necessary measures to improve prison conditions, e.g. by giving preference to alternatives to custody and completing the renovation and construction of detention centres.



WORKING TOWARDS THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

Since 2012, in partnership with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, the FIACAT has implemented a programme that aims to abolish the death penalty in Africa. Now in its second phase (2018-2021), this

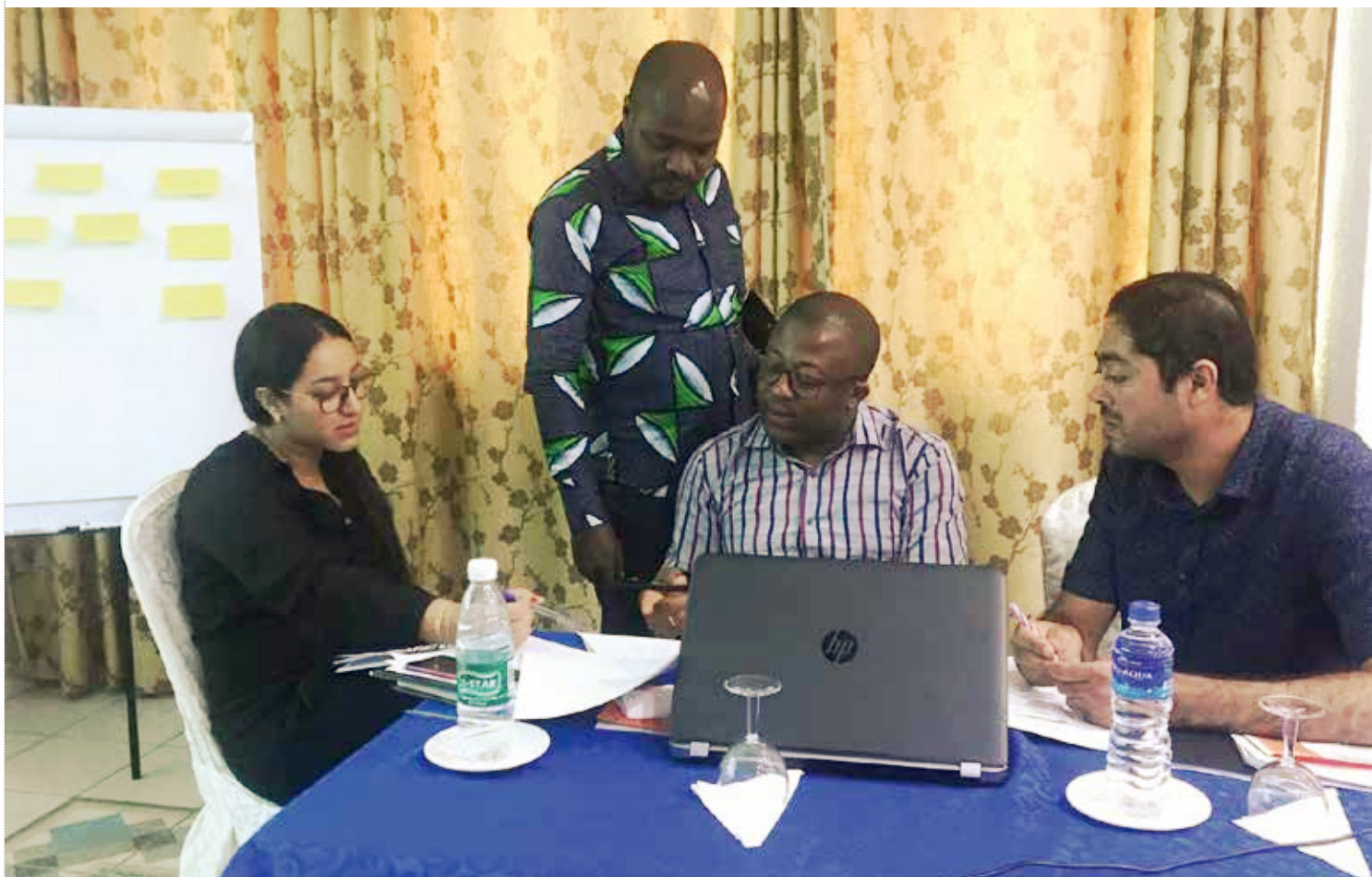
programme strengthens the capacity of members in both networks who are based in 23 different countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

PROMOTING THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY: STRENGTHENING THE ACATS' ADVOCACY POTENTIAL

TRAINING IN AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Since 2018, the FIACAT, in partnership the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), has been conducting training courses on the mechanisms of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the NGO forum, before each ordinary session of the Commission. In 2019, more than thirty

participants, members of the FIACAT, the WCADP, ECPM and the FIDH benefitted from this twice-yearly training, which also resulted in the creation of a practical guide entitled *"Comment travailler avec la CADHP pour abolir la peine de mort"* ("How to work with the ACHPR to abolish the death penalty").



WORLD CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

The 7th World Congress, organised by Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), was held in Brussels, Belgium from 26 February to 1 March and was attended by 1,500 participants from five continents. Five members of the FIACAT International Secretariat and 12 ACATs (Belgium, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) spent four days taking part in numerous debates and round tables on the need to abolish the death penalty.

During the congress, the FIACAT, organised a training workshop in pro-abolition advocacy with religious and community leaders. The various speakers (Sheikh

Barham Aboubacar, Chairman of Niger's Intra and Inter-Religious Dialogue Committee, Clifford Msiska, Director of the Paralegal Advisory Service in Malawi and Salomon Nodjitouloum, President of ACAT Chad) shared their experiences and best advocacy practices with the participants, who were then asked to set up an advocacy of their own to promote abolition.

On the fringes of the World Congress, on 26 February 2019, the FIACAT organised a meeting with the various ACATs present, to assess how its International Bureau addressed the ACATs' expectations with regard to abolition and provide an overview of their corresponding activities.

CONTINENTAL TRAINING COURSE ON ADVOCACY FOR ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

From 16 to 18 July 2019, the FIACAT and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty organised a continental training course on the abolition of the death penalty in Douala, Cameroon. More than 30 associations from 23 Sub-Saharan African countries took part, including 14 ACATs. Focusing on lobbying,

meetings with decision-makers and the use of media for advocacy, this strategic training strengthened the capacity of partner civil society organisations by increasing the effectiveness of their abolitionist activities.



INCREASING STATES' INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS TO ABOLISHING THE DEATH PENALTY

AWARENESS-RAISING WORKSHOP FOR AMBASSADORS TO THE AFRICAN UNION



In the past few years, Africa has become the most dynamic continent in terms of progress towards abolition. Hence the next few years will be crucial for the adoption of an additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the abolition of the death penalty in Africa. For this reason, on 28 March 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the FIACAT, in partnership with the ACHPR, the International

Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF), and the WCADP, organised a workshop to raise awareness of the draft Protocol among members of the African Union Group of Francophone Ambassadors. This workshop furthered understanding of the Protocol amongst State representatives, which is vital if it is to be adopted by the African Union.

64TH SESSION OF THE ACHPR



During the 64th session of the ACHPR, on 25 April at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, the Working Group on the Death Penalty, along with the FIACAT, the WCADP and the FIDH, organised a high-level panel on the abolition of the death penalty. The objective was to identify a range of abolitionist strategies in order to pinpoint levers for action which are relevant to retentionist countries. During the panel, political, legal, socio-cultural and religious pro-abolition arguments were presented.

A representative from the Gambian Ministry of Justice shared the experience of her country. The Gambia had reintroduced the death penalty, despite several decades of banning the practice. However, its reintroduction had not resulted in decreasing the crime rate. Nevertheless, in 2018 the country had ratified the Second Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. This is an unusual case of abolitionist dynamics arising from ratification of an international instrument.

Finally, a resolution on the abolition of the death penalty (Res. 416 (LXIV) 2019), drafted by the FIACAT, the WCADP, and the FIDH and subsequently submitted to the NGO Forum, was adopted by the Commission, calling on the States Parties to "support the adoption by the African Union of the draft Protocol to the African Charter on the abolition of the death penalty".

65TH SESSION OF THE ACHPR



The FIACAT took part in the 65th ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and in the NGO Forum held prior to that session, along with the ACATs of Benin, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali.

The FIACAT benefitted from the opportunity to organise, jointly with the WCADP, a side event focused on the children of parents who are sentenced to death or executed in Africa. The event was held in Banjul, the Gambia, on 19 October 2019. Speakers and other participants discussed the States' responsibility to ensure that the child's interests remain paramount, in accordance with regional and international legal norms, in particular the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The psychological and social impact on children whose parent is condemned to death and its long-term effect on children and adults are some of the reasons why abolition of the death penalty in Africa is vital.

Finally, the FIACAT and ACAT Chad together drew up an alternative report on the human rights situation in Chad. One of its key recommendations was revision of Act 034 on the repression of acts of terrorism, which provides for the death penalty. Subsequently, on 19 December 2019 the Chadian government's Council of Ministers adopted an abolitionist bill to revise Act 034. The bill has been sent to the National Assembly and it will likely be discussed in March 2020.

ADVOCACY MISSION IN COTONOU TO ENSHRINE THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN BENIN'S CONSTITUTION

In March 2019, the authorities in Benin commuted the sentences of the last 14 people condemned to death, in line with a decision issued by the Constitutional Court in January 2016 in effect abolishing capital punishment for all crimes. However, abolition was not immediately written into the Constitution. The President of the FIACAT and ACAT Benin organised an advocacy mission from 12-13 August 2019. During the mission, the delegation held numerous advocacy meetings and

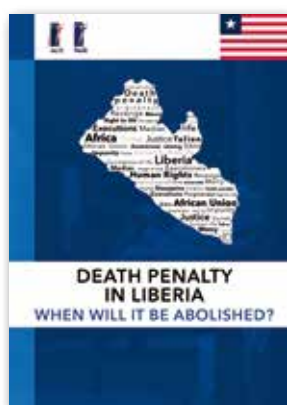
undertook a visit to the Cotonou prison, where those who had been sentenced to death are held. Revision of the Constitution on 7 November 2019 meant that abolition of the death penalty was unambiguously enshrined in Article 15 of the Constitution, rendering it in line with the commitment Benin made when in 2012 it ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

MOBILISING PUBLIC OPINION IN AFRICA ON THE DEATH PENALTY

AWARENESS-RAISING WORKSHOP FOR OPINION- MAKERS IN LIBERIA

On 17 and 18 September 2019, the FIACAT and ACAT Liberia organised an awareness-raising workshop in Monrovia, Liberia for more than thirty opinion-leaders. Muslim and Christian religious leaders, traditional chiefs, parliamentarians, members of civil society, journalists and members of the National Human Rights Institution gathered to discuss various ways of achieving abolition in Liberia. In 2005 the country acceded to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, but then in 2008, it increased the number of crimes allowing for the death penalty. The last execution goes back to 2000, but the courts are still pronouncing death sentences. Liberia is the only country in the world to have regressed after acceding to the UN Protocol.

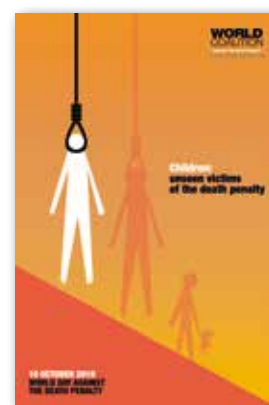
At the close of the workshop, a final declaration was officially presented to a representative of the Ministry of Justice and a publication was drafted to promote abolition amongst opinion-makers, taking into account the country's specific needs.



17TH WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY: CHILDREN, UNSEEN VICTIMS OF THE DEATH PENALTY

For the 30th anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted on 20 November 1989, this year's World Day Against the Death Penalty focused upon violations of the rights of children whose parents have been sentenced to death or executed.

As it does every year, the FIACAT network rallied to celebrate this international day. On the African continent, a dozen ACATs organised activities to increase awareness amongst the general public. In partnership with the FIACAT, the ACATs of Benin, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali organised conferences, radio broadcasts and advocacy sessions in order to create a pro-abolition platform. A national coalition to abolish the death penalty was even set up in the Congo, thanks to the initiative of the FIACAT's and WCADP members.



Affiche JM17

STRENGTHENING THE ACATs

MEETING OF EUROPEAN ACATs

At the invitation of ACAT Spain, 21 people from 7 European ACATs met in Barcelona, Spain, from 11-13 October. Following the addresses of Alfonso Zardi, Delegate-General of Pax Christi France and Patrick Müller, member of the CPT Secretariat, the ACAT members worked in break-out groups on the following themes:

- ▶ places of deprivation of liberty (police violence and detention centres)
- ▶ relations with Churches and the theology of human rights
- ▶ migrants
- ▶ recruitment and help for ACATs in difficulty.

Following this meeting, the European ACATs adopted a 3-year Action Plan (2019-2021).



MANUAL TO HELP WITH SETTING UP, DEVELOPING AND RUNNING AN ACAT

The objective of this document, which was drafted and adopted by the FIACAT's International Bureau in March 2019, is to provide guidance for those who wish to set up an ACAT or broaden the activities, the management or communications of an existing ACAT. It is divided into 9 sections focusing in turn on the creation and running of

an ACAT, its activities, human rights education, prayer, communication, fund-raising and networking. It is in no way a binding document, rather it is to be used as valuable reference tool, as each ACAT is free to adapt its proposals to the local context and the situation of its country and its members.

PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR MANAGING EMERGENCIES AND ENSURING SECURITY MEASURES

On 17 October 2018, the FIACAT's International Bureau adopted several proposals, put forth from a dedicated working group, which outlined potential actions in relation to emergency and security issues that could arise for the ACATs or the FIACAT. It called for a practical guide to be drafted which recommends specific steps to be undertaken in such an event.

The Practical Guide was subsequently drafted and finally adopted by the Bureau in March 2019. It outlines different approaches and actions to take when a security concern may exist in three domains: every-day security measures, safety when undertaking

international missions and safety in an emergency situation.

These recommendations were submitted to the FIACAT as procedures that should be followed by the Secretariat and the International Bureau when on international missions, and to the ACATs when undertaking activities carried out under the FIACAT umbrella. In other cases, the Guide is to be regarded as advice.

Training events for the ACATs could, if requested, be arranged by the FIACAT, especially in connection with FIACAT's international missions.

ACAT BRAZIL

On 8 November 2019, the FIACAT attended an online seminar organised by ACAT Brazil on the ACAT's current mission in the fight for human rights in Brazil. This seminar provided an opportunity to renew links between the FIACAT and ACAT Brazil. The FIACAT referred to the ACATs' mandate, the strength of the network and the FIACAT's support for its members in the form of yearly campaigns, assistance in advocating

before international and regional bodies, promoting and protecting human rights, and project creation and delivery. During the seminar, ACAT Brazil was also able to reinforce its partnerships with other stakeholders and actors that campaign against torture by means of a series of round-tables which focused on why it is still necessary and how to combat torture and ill-treatment in Brazil.

FOLLOWING-UP ON THE UPR RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE CONGO

Following-up and implementing the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is the priority for this third UPR cycle. With this in mind, the FIACAT and ACAT Congo worked to ensure widespread dissemination of the recommendations made during the third cycle of Congo's UPR that relate to the fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to mobilise all stakeholders to actively implement them. A booklet illustrating the recommendations was drafted with the help of a local Congolese illustrator and a workshop on the "Participation of the Republic of Congo in the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in November 2018: assessment and prospects" was organised. It brought together various representatives of Congolese NGOs, the National Commission on Human Rights, ministries and diplomatic missions and international organisations present in the Republic of Congo. The

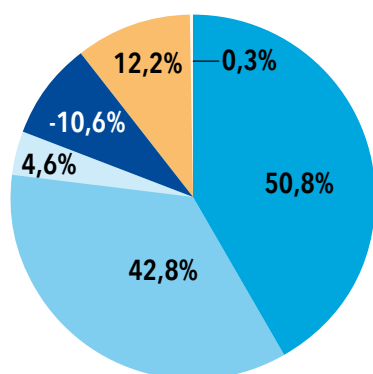
aim of these two activities was to simultaneously reach a larger public, Congolese authorities and civil society, and to ensure they are all were aware of the recommendations, while strengthening their capacity to implement them.



THE FIACAT'S FINANCES IN 2019

EXPENSES

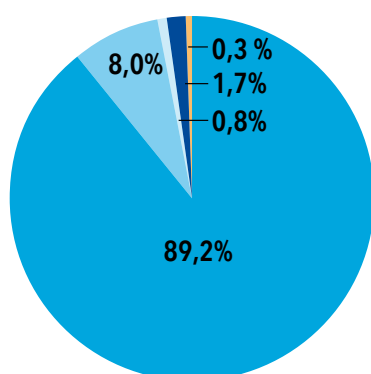
778 542



Fighting Abusive Pre-trial Detention (APD)	395 260 €
Abolition of the death penalty in Africa (PDM)	333 544 €
Advocacy with international organisations	35 530 €
Use of previous dedicated funds (without charges)	- 82 891 €
FIACAT's operating expenditure	94 972 €
Financial and exceptional items	2 126 €
Total expenditure	778 542 €

RESOURCES

805 325



Grants for projects	718 737 €
ACAT contributions	64 040 €
Private donations	6 208 €
Other resources	13 526 €
Financial and exceptional items	2 813 €
Total income	805 325 €



In 2019, the FIACAT had a positive result of € 26,783, thanks, in particular, to careful use of previously earmarked funds. This means that with greater activities in 2019, the FIACAT, the ACATs and their external partners have used both donor funds for 2019 and money that was still available at the end of 2018.

However, despite the continual increase in its activities over the past few years and the positive result of 2019, the FIACAT is still facing financial difficulty to ensure all of its missions, such as animating - and,

where necessary, offering training to – the ACAT network, and even in some cases in undertaking advocacy. In fact, private, non-dedicated resources in 2019 were noticeably lower than in 2018 and lower than public funding.

Consequently, the FIACAT's members and all those who encourage it are urged to provide support, whether directly or indirectly, for those activities which may appear to have a lower profile on the ground but which remain essential for the abolition of torture and the death penalty.

Benoît Théry, Treasurer

SUPPORT THE FIACAT

The FIACAT extends sincere thanks to its private donors, who have regularly supported its activities in 2019.

The FIACAT wishes to express its gratitude to its institutional partners who, over the years, have encouraged and supported its efforts in the fight for the abolition of torture and the death penalty:

- ACAT France Foundation
- Agence française du développement [French Development Agency] (AFD)
- CCFD-Terre solidaire [Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development] (France)
- Chad Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development for the «Projet d'appui à la Justice - Phase 2» (Support for Justice Project Phase 2) (PRAJUST 2)
- Delegation of the European Union to Côte d'Ivoire
- Embassy of the United Kingdom in Madagascar
- Fonds de dotation du Barreau de Lyon [Endowment Fund of the Lyon Bar]
- Fonds de dotation du Barreau de Paris [Endowment Fund of the Paris Bar]
- Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
- Missio (Germany)
- International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF)
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Tavola Valdese (Italy)

SUPPORT THE FIACAT

AND CONTRIBUTE
TO A WORLD WITHOUT
TORTURE AND THE DEATH
PENALTY!

BY BANK TRANSFER:

Bank name : BRED - Vincennes

Name of account : FED INTERNATIONALE ACAT

96 boulevard de la Libération, 94300, Vincennes

RIB : 1010 7002 2800 9130 5896 718

Swift code : BREDFRPPXXX

IBAN code : FR76 1010 7002 2800 9130 5896 718

BY CHEQUE:

Payable to FIACAT :

FIACAT

**96 boulevard de la Libération
94300 Vincennes - FRANCE**

For France, in accordance with the Finance Act of 2003, your income tax is reduced by 66% of your donation up to a limit of 20% of your taxable income. A receipt will be sent to you at the start of the year.

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU



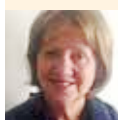
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President, manages relations with
the West African ACATs and the ACHPR



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and Asian ACATs



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The FIACAT wishes to thank its intern **Malick Ndaw** as well as the volunteers, especially **Robert Zuber** (Representative to the United Nations in New York) and **Pierre Lévêque** (FIACAT Accountant), who have been working with us for years and who have made our achievements possible.

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