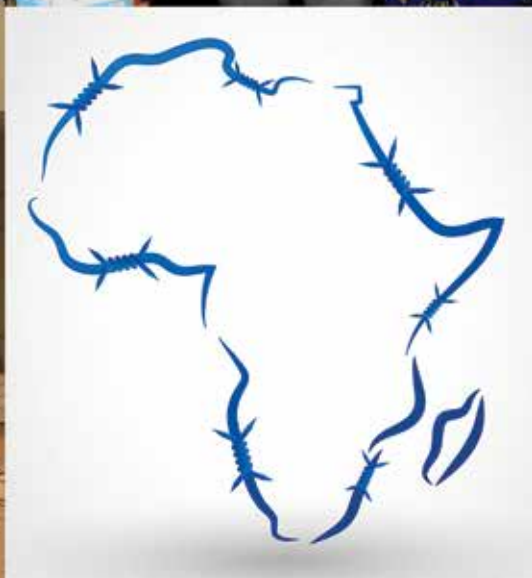
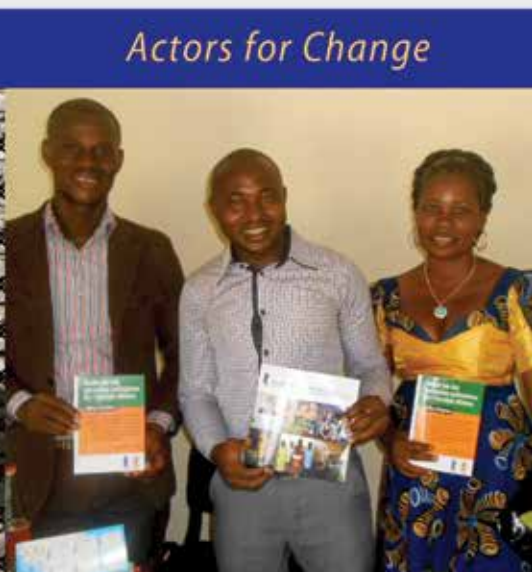




FIACAT'S ACTIVITIES IN 2015

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ACTION BY CHRISTIANS FOR THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE



FIACAT

27, rue de Maubeuge
75009 Paris – France
Tel.: +33 (0)1 42 80 01 60
Fax.: +33 (0)1 42 80 20 89
E-mail: fiacat@fiacat.org

FIACAT Representation to the UN in Geneva

c/o CCIG
1 rue de Varembe
Case postale 43
1211 Genève 20 – Switzerland
Tel.: +41 787 499 328
E-mail: fiacat.onu@fiacat.org

FIACAT Representation to the European Institutions in Brussels

Quai au Foin 53
B- 1000 Brussels - Belgium
Tel.: +32 4 70 92 85 10
E-mail: fiacat.europe@fiacat.org

Designed by Mémoire de l'œil - 06 18 17 68 44
ISSN 1816-1316

© International Federation of Action by Christians for Abolition of Torture, February 2016

Contents

WHAT IS FIACAT?	2
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	3
WORKING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS	4
FIACAT's action strategy before the United Nations	4
Follow-up of the reviews by FIACAT and the ACATs at national level	5
Strengthening synergies between the United Nations and the European Union to combat torture more effectively	6
WORKING WITH ACHPR	7
Preventing torture	7
Abolishing the death penalty	7
WORKING WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)	8
FIACAT's work with the European institutions	8
Support of European ACATs in their relations with European Union bodies	9
ACTION WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE)	10
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)	10
European Committee against torture (CPT)	10
ACTION IN THE NETWORK	11
Burundi: descent into hell	11
Churches	11
OUR PROGRAMMES	12
Abolition of the death penalty in Sub-Saharan Africa	12
Programme to fight against abusive pre-trial detention	14
FIACAT'S FINANCES IN 2015	16
FIACAT'S TEAM IN 2015	17
ACAT'S CONTACTS	18

What is FIACAT?

FIACAT, the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture, is an international 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.

FIACAT – building up the capacities of the ACAT network

FIACAT assists its member associations in organising themselves, supporting them so that they can become important actors of civil society, capable of raising public awareness and having an impact on the authorities in their country.

It coordinates the network by promoting exchanges, proposing regional and international training events and joint campaigns, thus supporting the activities of the ACATs by engaging in field projects with them and providing them with exposure on the international scene.

FIACAT– representing its members before international and regional organisations

By referring the concerns of its members working on the field to international bodies, FIACAT seeks to encourage the adoption of relevant recommendations and their implementation by governments.

FIACAT works towards the application of international human rights conventions, the prevention of torture in places of detention, and an end to enforced disappearances and impunity.

It also takes part in the campaign against the death penalty by calling on States to abolish capital punishment in their legal systems.

The impact of our action in 2015:

- FIACAT, ACAT Benin and ACAT Côte d'Ivoire identified 140 cases of wrongful detention of suspects in six prisons and obtained the release of 100 detainees (62 in Côte d'Ivoire and 38 in Benin).
- Thanks to FIACAT's advocacy, Madagascar abolished the death penalty in January 2015 and the Togolese parliament authorised Togo's accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at abolition of the death penalty.
- FIACAT contributed to the adoption by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights of an Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the abolition of the death penalty.

Message from the President



Throughout 2015, in an increasingly fraught environment (refugee crisis in Europe, terrorist attacks, political upheavals and danger for human rights defenders, particularly in Africa), FIACAT has continued its fight for the abolition of torture and the death penalty, a fight which is having its effect and is acknowledged by all its partners, intergovernmental organisations and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), and is supported by the day-to-day groundwork carried out by the ACATs.

It is generally very difficult to pinpoint the effect of any specific action in the field of human rights, since outcomes usually depend on the combined work of different actors. But some results can be attributed directly to FIACAT. For example, FIACAT's international advocacy work is undoubtedly effective.

Of the 240 recommendations put to the United Nations this year by the ACATs, 50% have been given priority status by the Treaty bodies (Committee Against Torture, Human Rights Committee) and 90% were taken up by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The work FIACAT has done to support ACATs

working on the ground has proved its worth. This year, in two sub-Saharan African countries it resulted directly in the liberation of 100 persons held in abusive pre trial detention, 62 in Côte d'Ivoire and 38 in Benin.

At a time when human rights are regularly called into question and trampled on, when democracies impose restrictions on freedom in the name of security, what better response is there than that of the effectiveness of human rights, which save lives, bring about freedom and safeguard dignity? They are an extraordinary vehicle of hope for all those whose rights are being violated, throughout the world. Respect for human rights is not a matter for experts alone, but is above all the responsibility of every one of us, part of our awareness that all human beings are our brothers and sisters. It is up to Christians united in their one faith to live that respect and to show it in their actions!

Sylvie Bukhari-de Pontual
President of FIACAT



FIACAT and the ACATs pursue an overall strategy of accompanying the monitoring process, from information-gathering to follow-up of the recommendations. FIACAT makes submissions to the United Nations charter and treaty bodies to ensure that the States honour their commitments.

FIACAT's action strategy before the United Nations

FIACAT has strengthened the capacities of its members¹ by organising training sessions and assisting the ACATs in drafting and



submitting joint shadow reports to the UN human rights bodies. FIACAT and the ACATs of **Belgium, Benin, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, France, Liberia, Luxembourg, Niger, Switzerland and Togo** thus expressed their concerns during the reviews of their States.

Key figures on FIACAT's action at the United Nations

- 13 ACATs were supported before the United Nations
- 8 joint alternative reports were submitted
- 7 ACATs lobbied in Geneva along with their Federation
- 240 recommendations were drawn up by the ACATs
- 50% of the recommendations regarded as «priorities»² by the Committees are addressed by the ACATs.
- 90% of the ACATs' recommendations are taken up at the universal periodic review (UPR)

1. Belgium, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Luxembourg, Niger, Switzerland.
2. To be implemented during the year following the examination.

At Pre Session before Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the ACAT members take the opportunity to meet the representatives of the Permanent Missions and the OHCHR desk officers for the country reviewed in order to voice their concerns.

These mainly concern the criminalisation of torture, prison conditions, treatment of asylum seekers, abolition of the death penalty, enforced disappearances and extra-judicial killings.



"The ACAT's advocacy at the United Nations was the culmination of an intense joint effort which allowed us to draw up an in-depth review of the situation in our country as regards detention, asylum-seekers and police violence. The first stage was a submission along with

the five other Belgian NGOs present that day to over 20 very attentive national delegations.

This was followed by individual conversations with the Belgian representation at the United Nations and the OHCHR staff responsible for preparing the UPR. We met with a very receptive response and a genuine interest in our analysis. The experience has imbued us with fresh energy for the follow-up to the recommendations!"

Thomas Petitguyot, Representative of ACAT Belgium

When a state is reviewed by a treaty body (the Committee against Torture, Human Rights Committee, etc.), FIACAT and a member of the ACAT of the country in question have a private meeting with the committee members.

This makes it possible to convey the concerns of civil society and thus ensures better follow-up of the implementation at national level of the UN bodies' recommendations to the state.



"The ultimate satisfaction for a human rights activist is to have had this opportunity to put our case to the experts of one of the UN committees and the Permanent Missions. In addition to the joint FIACAT/ACAT Congo reports submitted, informal contacts behind the scenes

allow us to back up our recommendations and provide documents in support of our arguments (decrees, laws and orders).

Discussions with the government delegation from my country also allowed an exchange of views on how best to give effect to the recommendations made. In the review of the Congo, this approach led the Committee Against Torture to incorporate into its Concluding Observations a number of the recommendations made by ACAT Congo and FIACAT."

Christian Loubassou, President of ACAT Congo

Follow-up of the reviews by FIACAT and the ACATs at national level

Following the United Nations review of a state, a number of recommendations are made for implementation before the next review, or in the course of the next year in the case of priority recommendations.

To follow up the recommendations, FIACAT and the national ACATs support the authorities through field projects.

There are two projects for the abolition of torture and the death penalty: on combating abusive pre-trial detention and on campaigning for the definitive abolition of capital punishment on the African continent.

The FIACAT programmes may be found on pages 12 to 15



Sylvie Bukhari-de Pontual, Elisabeth Edland, Martha Mendez, Claudio Grossman, Paul Angaman

Strengthening synergies between the United Nations and the European Union to combat torture more effectively

At the 56th session of the Committee against Torture in November 2015, FIACAT, at the Committee's invitation, organised a workshop on capitalising on experience among the UN and European bodies and civil society to strengthen synergies in the fight against torture.

This private meeting of the members of the Committee against Torture, the representatives of the European Union, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) and some partner NGOs allowed the participants and speakers to discuss their respective practice and strategies in combating torture.

Following a talk by a representative of the European Commission on the European Union's external action in its relations with third countries, FIACAT, represented by the chairman of ACAT Côte d'Ivoire, Paul Angaman, highlighted civil society practices in the field when combating torture. The discussion centred on ways of ensuring better follow-up of the Committee's recommendations.

This event yielded a better understanding of the EU's decisional process, the tools for prevention of torture and support for local initiatives. It also provided an opportunity to describe how civil society organisations, especially the ACATs, keep a close watch at national and international level to ensure respect for human rights.

According to Elisabeth Edland, Human Rights Advisor and Policy Officer for the Fight against Torture in the European External Action Service, who attended the meeting, "The constructive discussion among the participants underlined the advantages which may accrue when the main players in the fight against torture know and understand each other's activities and try to support and complement one another. The event was also opportune with a view to carrying out the new EU Action Plan on Human Rights adopted in July 2015."

The sharing of initiatives and experience among the various players pointed up the need for better coordination and a holistic approach to combating torture to ensure greater effectiveness. The participants were strengthened in their belief in the need for constant contact between the various actors in order to abolish torture throughout the world.

Working with ACHPR

FIACAT has had Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) since 1991. In this capacity, it takes part in the Commission's ordinary sessions, to report on its concerns as regards violations of human rights on the African continent.

FIACAT has a particular interest in the work of the special Rapporteur on conditions of detention in Africa and of the Working Group on the death penalty in Africa.

Preventing torture

At the 56th ordinary session of the ACHPR, Niger and Senegal presented their periodic reports. FIACAT and the ACATs of Niger and Senegal submitted two joint shadow reports to the Commission to draw attention to their observations on the human rights situation in these countries.

When these two periodic reports were examined, the Commissioners included many of the ACATs' concerns in their questions to the state, in particular on the criminalisation of torture, observance of the time limits for police custody and abolition of the death penalty in Niger.

FIACAT took part in the ceremony to launch the **Guidelines on conditions of arrest, police custody and pre-trial detention in Africa**. It reported on its activities in Côte d'Ivoire and Benin concerning the fight against abusive pre-trial detention in prisons and undertook to work on disseminating the guidelines.

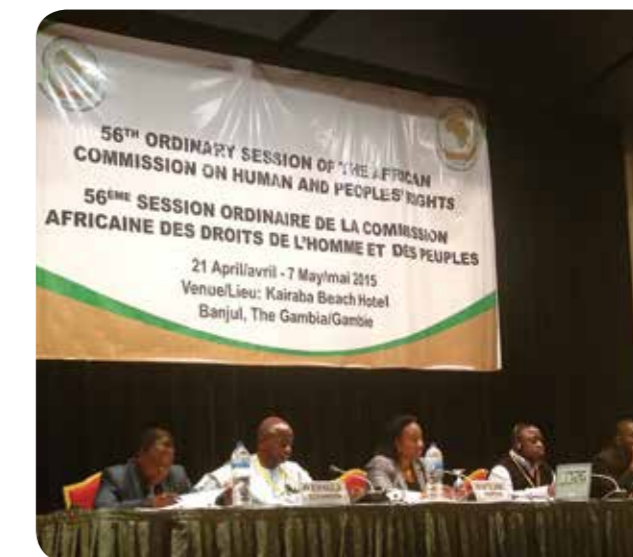
FIACAT also urged the special Rapporteur on prisons and detention conditions in Africa, Commissioner Meg Kaggwa, to fight against prison overcrowding in Africa by promoting community service as an alternative to detention for petty crimes and for first-time offenders.

Abolishing the death penalty

During this session, in partnership with the World Coalition against the death penalty, FIDH and the ACHPR's Working Group on the death penalty in Africa, FIACAT organised a debate on abolition of the death penalty which tackled the issue of the death penalty in Africa ahead of the adoption of an African protocol on the abolition of the death penalty in Africa (see below).

Some Member States of the African Union (Algeria, DRC) reported on the obstacles they were encountering on the road to abolition. Taking a different line, the representative of Togo, which had been abolitionist since 2009, encouraged his peers to do away with the death penalty in order to "improve their international image" where human rights protection was concerned. Niger stressed its government's official support for the draft Protocol.

The African protocol on the death penalty was adopted during the session.





Throughout the year, FIACAT worked to publicise its members' concerns and to influence the internal and external policies of the European Union (EU).

FIACAT's work with the European institutions

The EU's action plan 2015-2019 on human rights and democracy

In 2015 the EU Council adopted a new Action Plan on human rights and democracy for the period 2015-2019, in which it renewed its commitment to promoting and defending human rights and supporting democracy throughout the world.

FIACAT and other human rights NGOs urged that the fight against torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and the death penalty remain an EU policy priority.

Meetings and information and discussion sessions among NGOs and European bodies have led the EU to decide, in the context of its involvement in the fight against torture and for abolition of the death penalty, to:

a. Address torture and ill-treatment (prevention, accountability and rehabilitation), and the death penalty (abolition, moratorium and minimum standards) in a comprehensive manner through political and human rights dialogues and support to partner countries, independent national prevention mechanisms and civil society; mainstream safeguards against death penalty, torture and ill-treatment in EU activities, including in counter-terrorism and in crisis management.

b. Elaborate a coherent approach addressing the links between death penalty, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, extra judicial summary or arbitrary executions, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrest and detention;

c. Undertake joint actions to promote the absolute prohibition of torture working in close cooperation with the UN, regional organisations and civil society, including supporting the 10 year global initiative (Convention against torture Initiative), to achieve global ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Torture (CAT) by 2024; promote the ratification and implementation of its Optional Protocol (OPCAT), and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Training of the human rights focal points for members of the European Union delegations

On 17 November 2015, the EU's European External Action Service organised a training workshop for 19 people, human rights officers from EU's delegations world-wide, 8 representatives from Member States and 7 members from the European External Action Service headquarters.

This day, given over to the fight against torture: from prevention to rehabilitation via identification enabled FIACAT and the partner NGOs to interact with the participants.

FIACAT, represented by Paul Angaman (ACAT Côte d'Ivoire), stressed how important it was for European bodies to maintain strong links with civil society on matters as sensitive as torture and ill-treatment.

Support of European ACATs in their relations with European Union bodies



"The EEAS extends sincere thanks to the civil society organisations (FIACAT, OMCT, APT, AI, IRCT) and the United Nations who helped to make a success of this first seminar on combating torture by prevention, rehabilitation and monitoring. Thanks to FIACAT for sharing its expertise, knowledge and motivation with its European Union partners.

Participants appreciated the quality of the speakers and the way in which they complemented one another, as well as the testimony of those working in the field such as Paul Angaman of ACAT Côte d'Ivoire. Many of those present were able to learn about - or learn more about - the problems of torture through the exchange of good practice, illustrated by practical examples.

This kind of training will be extremely useful for implementation of the new Action Plan for human rights and democracy 2015-2019, in which the fight against torture remains an EU priority."

Patricia Bocchi, European External Action Service

International day in support of victims of torture (26 June): "Time to take torture seriously!"

On the initiative of ACAT Luxembourg, FIACAT and the ACATs collected 12 000 signatures for a petition addressed to the EU and its Member States, urging them to challenge the authorities of third countries on their commitment to the fight against torture, whilst committing themselves to ensuring that Europe set an example in this regard.

On the occasion of the International Day in support of the victims of torture, the signatures were passed on to the Luxembourg government which was about to take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union³.

FIACAT also held talks with Luxembourg's Permanent Mission to the EU, to encourage the Council Presidency to:

- give absolute priority to promoting human dignity;
- reaffirm that torture was unacceptable and illegal in any circumstances, including in the face of terrorist threats;
- exert the EU's influence with other countries to ensure that the ban on torture was upheld.

On 10 July 2015, Luxembourg's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Asselborn, in a letter to ACAT Luxembourg stressed that while holding the presidency of the Council of the EU Luxembourg would continue to support the work of the EU institutions in the fight against torture at European and world level, in particular in connection with migration and the fight against terrorism.

International Human Rights Day (10 December): "No to diminishing the universality of the right of asylum!"

In June 2015, the European ACATs met and decided to set up a joint campaign on the right to asylum. FIACAT and ACAT France, in cooperation with the European network, called on their national authorities and the European Union to abolish the existing lists of "safe countries of origin" and delete all mention of «safe countries of origin» from all Directives.

FIACAT drew the attention of the representatives of the various EU bodies to this campaign and each ACAT brought it to the notice of its national authorities. FIACAT has also held talks with the Netherlands, which will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2016.

³. Held by Luxembourg from 1 July to 31 December 2015.

Action with the Council of Europe

As its Member States are constantly calling human rights into question, the Council of Europe's various bodies have reacted several times to emphasise the need to respect the rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

In response to questions from the European citizens that they represent, the 324 members of the Parliamentary Assembly debated current issues (immigration, terrorism, etc) and the reforms needed to see that human rights are promoted and protected (improving detention conditions, combating hate speech and racism, etc).

Among the topics discussed, FIACAT and several ACATs provided information for the parliamentarians reporting on *"abuse of pre-trial detention in Europe"*, *"the plight of seriously ill detainees"* and *"violence against migrants"*. Each ACAT was able to highlight its own country's specific problems.



European Committee against torture (CPT)

To mark the 25th anniversary of the **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)**, FIACAT was invited to take part in an international conference to examine the chal-

lenges of preventing torture and ill-treatment and take stock of the work achieved. Topics such as combating impunity of the police and prison guards, health care in detention, solitary confinement and the treatment of minors in detention were studied. This made it possible to highlight the work of civil society which forwards information ahead of visits by CPT delegations and which follows up visits in the countries and establishments that have been visited.

Thus, **FIACAT and ACAT France** have submitted a report to the CPT setting out their concerns: prison overcrowding, conditions in prisons and detention centres and failure to comply with procedural guarantees.

When the CPT visited France, from 15 to 27 November 2015, FIACAT and ACAT France emphasised particularly the excessive use of force by security forces. Apart from the lack of national statistics on the number of people killed or injured during interventions by the police or gendarmerie, FIACAT and ACAT France deplored the use of less-lethal weapons (Tasers, Flash-Balls, etc) and immobilising techniques that proved lethal. FIACAT and ACAT France also denounced the impunity enjoyed by security forces and the difficulty for victims of filing a complaint or obtaining compensation.



"The meeting with the members of the CPT delegation during their visit to France enabled FIACAT and ACAT France to draw their attention to ACAT's concerns at national level which are often considered inadmissible. The support of the CPT is therefore essential to remind the State of its obligations and undertakings."

Aline Daillère, Programme Officer - France (police, prison, justice), ACAT France.

Action in the network

Burundi: descent into hell

A serious crisis arose in Burundi when President Pierre Nkurunziza sought to obtain a third term, in total violation of the Constitution and the Arusha Agreements.

The Burundi authorities became engulfed in a spiral of quasi-systematic violations of the most basic rights: violent repression of peaceful demonstrations, arbitrary arrests, torture, extra-judicial executions, etc. Many members of the opposition and civil society were obliged to go into exile as a result of intimidation and targeted assassinations, including the President of ACAT Burundi.

December was a particularly murderous month: about a hundred people were executed within two days. These people were the victims of executions carried out by State security forces including the police and the military. This repressive action was mainly directed at the districts where there had been the most demonstrations against the Burundian President's third term. Since then, every day has seen extra-judicial executions, blatant ill-treatments and enforced disappearances.

The ACAT network was mobilised several times to support ACAT Burundi and its President, particularly by calling on their national authorities to put pressure on the Burundi authorities to end



this situation of widespread human rights violations. FIACAT has referred the matter to the competent bodies at regional and international level.



"Despite the merciless repression and intimidation of human rights defenders, we will continue our resistance, drawing attention to the daily repression by Pierre Nkurunziza's regime, and showing that the police regularly practise torture, extra-judicial executions, enforced disappearances and sexual violence against opponents to the third term of the President. The people of Burundi need an intervention force to provide security; there will be no dialogue until security is re-established."

Armel Niyongere, President of ACAT Burundi (in exile)

Churches

In the run-up to the visit by Pope Francis to the USA and his speeches to the United Nations and the US Congress, FIACAT asked the Pope to support the campaign for abolition of torture and the death penalty. FIACAT welcomes the firm stance that he adopted before the US Congress:

"This conviction has led me, from the beginning of my ministry, to advocate at different levels for the global abolition of the death penalty. I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes."

During a visit to a high security prison in Philadelphia, he reiterated his interest in prisoners' rights: *"It is painful when we see prison systems which are not concerned to care for wounds, to soothe the pain, to offer new possibilities"*. This message remains at the heart of FIACAT's work.

Abolition of the death penalty in Sub-Saharan Africa

FIACAT, jointly with all the African ACATs, has been campaigning since 2012 to achieve final abolition of the death penalty on the African continent. This campaign aims to encourage States that have not yet done so to abolish the death penalty, and to invite States which have already done so to secure this abolition by making it irreversible; it also aims to support the work of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

Advocacy for abolition of the death penalty

Madagascar: Thanks to the support of FIACAT, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and ACAT Madagascar, the Madagascar National Assembly adopted on 10 December 2014 a draft law to abolish the death penalty in Madagascar. This law was promulgated by the President of the Republic on 9 January 2015. **Madagascar has thus become the 18th abolitionist country in Africa.**



Côte d'Ivoire: Côte d'Ivoire abolished capital punishment in its Constitution of 2000 but the Penal Code still contained provisions referring to the death penalty. Since 2013, FIACAT and

ACAT Côte d'Ivoire have been advocating final abolition of the death penalty in Ivorian penal law. On **10 March 2015, the Ivorian National Assembly abolished all reference to the death penalty in the Penal Code.**

Togo: Following FIACAT's visit in December 2014, the Togo National Assembly authorised the Government in July 2015 to adhere to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at Abolition of the Death Penalty.

Raising awareness among opinion leaders

To provide support for States which have introduced a moratorium as a step towards abolition of the death penalty, since 2014 FIACAT has been working with opinion leaders (traditional chiefs, religious leaders, parliamentarians, journalists, lawyers, magistrates, trade unionists, civil society organisations, etc) to draw up arguments in favour of abolition which are tailored to the situation in each target country. The aim is to provide national activists for abolition, particularly ACATs, with the tools to raise public awareness and support the process towards abolition of the death penalty.



Participants to the workshop of Niamey (Niger)

FIACAT has organised two workshops on raising the awareness of opinion leaders: in Niger, in partnership with ACAT Niger and the Niger Coalition against the death penalty, and in Congo, in partnership with ACAT Congo, in March and September 2015 respectively. These two workshops enabled opinion leaders from each of the two countries to meet and exchange views on the issue of the death penalty, to identify the obstacles to abolition and the arguments likely to move this campaign forward.

In Niger, the question of religion was central to the debate; participants from five of the country's towns benefited from the teachings of Imam Sheikh Yahaya Haladou and the Reverend Boureima Kimso, who both put forward religious arguments from Muslim and Christian texts preaching the sacred and inviolable nature of human life.



The ACHPR adopts an African protocol on abolition of the death penalty

At the 56th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR in April 2015, the Commission adopted the draft African Protocol on the death penalty prepared by its Working Group on the death penalty with the support of FIACAT, the FIDH and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

In Congo, participants from seven of the country's towns also benefited from teaching on the death penalty in the Christian and Muslim religions, and from the reflections of Professor Théophile Obenga on the death penalty and punishment in the Congolese tradition.

Following these workshops, FIACAT published two guides on awareness-raising, reviewing the arguments that were worked out at these workshops. These documents are presented in the form of a practical tool for opinion leaders and abolitionists in civil society to enable them to support reforms leading to abolition in these two countries.

This text aims to reinforce the provisions of Article 4 of the African Charter of Human and People's Rights on the right to life.

It constitutes an instrument around which African governments, national human rights institutions, lawyers, magistrates, civil society organisations, the media, religious leaders, traditional chiefs and citizens can mobilise to counter any resistance in the discussions they hold at national level. It must now be presented to the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union for adoption before it can be ratified by the Member States of the AU. After 15 ratifications it will come into force.

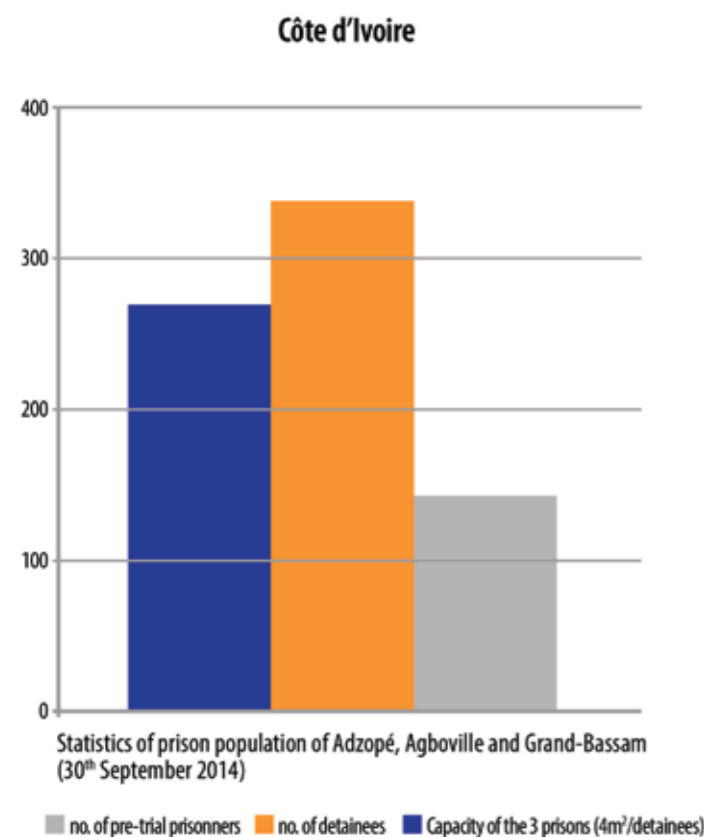
The draft Regional Protocol is currently receiving positive support from several Member States. Benin, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Niger have expressed their support for this text at meetings with delegations from FIACAT.

Liberia did not want to support it but has confirmed to FIACAT that it will not oppose adoption of this regional treaty.

Programme to fight against abusive pre-trial detention

An alarming fact

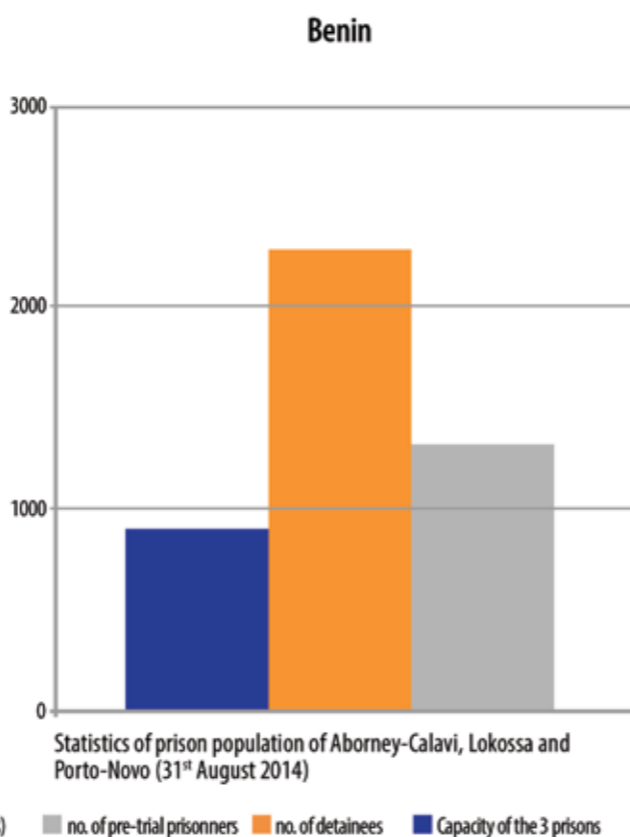
In African prisons, overcrowding is endemic. Some prisons may receive four or five times more prisoners than they were intended to hold. For many years FIACAT and ACATs have noted that a large proportion of prison inmates is made up of remand prisoners awaiting trial.



Pre-trial detention is the deprivation of liberty imposed as an exceptional measure against an accused person while the case is being investigated.

This is a serious measure which consists of imprisoning a person who is still presumed innocent. It therefore constitutes an infringement of the presumption of innocence.

This measure is firmly condemned by international and regional human rights promotion mechanisms which equate it, when it is abusive, to a cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.



"The training offered by ACAT and FIACAT enabled me and many other participants to review certain specific issues in connection with detention in penal establishments, with a view to better treatment of every person who is temporarily deprived of their freedom. These workshops also provided an opportunity to look at various practices or experiences with a view to a better conception of how to treat prisoners."

The results have been convincing: about 10 people have been released thanks to action and encouragement by ACAT members and the involvement of all concerned in the penal chain of command who have recognised the relevance and rightness of this action."

Edouard Alain M' N'Dery Suery, Former Governor (2014-2015) of the prison of Abomey-Calavi (Benin)

What we are doing

In 2014, FIACAT and the ACATs of Benin and Côte d'Ivoire began a programme aiming to combat abusive pre-trial detention.

In November and December 2014, FIACAT and the ACATs of Benin and Côte d'Ivoire organised two workshops on "capacity-building for those involved in the penal system and civil society with regard to compliance with court guarantees."

This programme was extended to July 2015 for Benin and December 2015 for Côte d'Ivoire.

ACAT volunteers, assisted by specialist lawyers and armed with a Guide to procedural guarantees with regard to pre-trial detention, made numerous visits to prisons.

These meetings with prison staff and prisoners made it possible to refer cases of abusive detention to the competent authorities.

Prison overcrowding was reduced, thus helping to improve detention conditions in the target prisons.

Results

- Intervention in **6 prisons** in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire
- Training of: **65 members of the court and prison staff and 30 volunteer members of human rights associations**
- **Identification of 140 cases** of abusive pre-trial detention
- Provisional or definitive **release of 100 prisoners** (62 in Côte d'Ivoire and 38 in Benin).

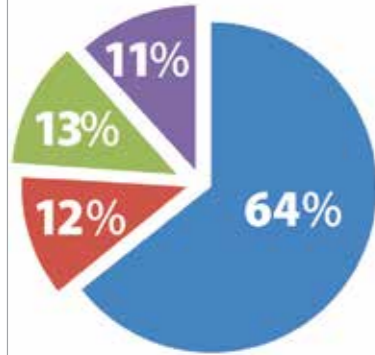


"Prison was not easy for me. I was accused of a breach of trust and was awaiting trial for seven months. But when the members of ACAT Côte d'Ivoire listed my name, I was released the following month. I would like to say thank you to ACAT and to everyone who enables them to come to the assistance of prisoners. Thank you and may God reward you."

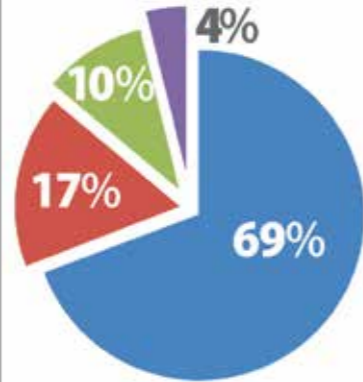
Mlle Atokpo Niangoran, released from Adzopé prison thanks to this programme

FIACAT's finances in 2015

EXPENSES
400 656 €



INCOME
383 775 €



EXPENSES

■ Training sessions and Human Rights projects	252 333 €
■ ACAT network support	48 780 €
■ Actions towards international organisations	52 112 €
■ Running costs	47 431 €

TOTAL 400 656 €

INCOME

■ Grants and special donations	265 651 €
■ Contributions from ACATs	64 456 €
■ Others donations	39 939 €
■ Financial and exceptional income	13 719 €

TOTAL 383 775 €

FIACAT warmly thanks its private donors who have regularly supported its activities in 2015.

FIACAT gives heartfelt thanks to its institutional partners who for years have encouraged its efforts in the campaign for the abolition of torture and the death penalty:

- Agence française du développement (AFD)
- CCFD – Terre solidaire (France)
- Fond de solidarité du Barreau de Paris (France)
- Fondation ACAT France
- Foreign Affairs Ministry (Luxembourg)
- Missio (Germany)
- OPCAT Special Fund (United Nations)
- Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)
- Tavola Valdese (Italy)

All participate actively through their contributions in supporting the activities of FIACAT and its network.

Support FIACAT and make a contribution to a world without torture!

By bank cheque:

Made out to FIACAT
Send to: FIACAT - 27, rue de Maubeuge - 75009 Paris

Or by bank transfer:

Name of bank: BRED - Banque Populaire
Address of bank: BRED - Agence Paris La Fayette, 74 rue La Fayette 75009 Paris
Account Name: FED INTERNATIONALE ACAT, 27 rue de Maubeuge 75009 Paris
RIB: 1010 7001 5400 9130 5896 761
Swift Code: BREDFRPPXXX
IBAN Code: FR76 1010 7001 54 00 9130 5896 761

(In France, tax deduction of 66% up to the limit of 20% of your taxable income. Your name and address are essential so that you can be sent your tax receipt.)

FIACAT's team in 2015

International Bureau



President :
Sylvie BUKHARI-DE PONTUAL (France)



Treasurer, in charge of relations with the American and Asian ACATs:
Ronald ALBERT (Canada)



In charge of relations with Churches:
Janette CHAMBONNIÈRE (Belgium)



In charge of relations with Churches:
Massimo CORTI (Italy)



In charge of relations with European ACATs and the European Institutions:
Bernadette JUNG (Germany)



In charge of relations with the West African ACATs:
Bernard SAGARA (Mali)



In charge of relations with the Central African and Madagascar ACATs:
Maria-Sylvie RAHARINARIVONIRINA (Madagascar)



In charge of relations with the United Nations:
Jean-Bernard MARIE (France)



Financial Adviser to the International Bureau:
Philippe WESTERCAMP

Secrétariat



Executive Director:
Sabrina BIGNIER



Representative to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR):
Guillaume COLIN



Permanent Representative to the European Institutions (Brussels) and Representative to the United Nations (Geneva):
Lionel GRASSY



Administrative and financial Officer and Representative to the Council of Europe:
Nicolas HUET

Trainees and volunteers

FIACAT wishes to thank Marie Salphati (intern) and the volunteers who have been working with it for years and make its achievements possible.

Afrique / Africa

ACAT Bénin / Benin

03 BP 0394
Cotonou - Bénin
Tél. : +229 21 04 35 88
acat_coordbnin@yahoo.fr

ACAT Burundi / Burundi

BP 6687
Avenue de la Démocratie, n°20,
Quartier INSS, Zone Rohero
Bujumbura - Burundi
Tél. : +257 79 97 77 81
Fax : +257 22 25 85 73
acatbur@yahoo.fr

ACAT Cameroun / Cameroon

Archbishop's house
Po Box 82
Bamenda - Cameroun
acat_cameroun@yahoo.com

ACAT République centrafricaine / Central African Republic

BP 527 - Bangui
République Centrafricaine
acat_rca@yahoo.fr

ACAT Congo / Congo

BP 5612
Pointe-Noire - Congo
acatcongo_brazza@yahoo.fr

ACAT Côte d'Ivoire / Côte d'Ivoire

S/c Caritas - 01 BP 2590
Abidjan 01 - Côte d'Ivoire
Tél. : +225 22 00 22 55 / 05 09 23 05
Fax : +225 22 44 84 38
acat_ci2230@yahoo.fr

ACAT Ghana / Ghana *

Po Box 532 - Ho, VR - Ghana
acatghana2002@yahoo.com

ACAT Liberia / Liberia

Gballasuah, Tubmanburg,
Bomi County
Libéria
+231 6 59 15 02
acatliberiamail@gmail.com

ACAT Madagascar / Madagascar

Lot III U 152 T Bis X Anosizato-Est
Antananarivo 101 - Madagascar
Tél. : + 261 33 28 35 053
/ 34 17 76 255
acatmadagascar@yahoo.fr

ACAT Mali / Mali

Lycée Prosper Kamara
BP 165, Hamdallaye
Bamako - Mali
sdacatmali@yahoo.fr

ACAT Niger / Niger *

s/c Alfari Balma
BP 13331- Niamey
Niger
mourniger@yahoo.fr

ACAT République Démocratique du Congo / Democratic Republic of Congo

272, avenue Buta
Commune de Lingwala
Kinshasa
Tél. : +243 81 685 35 66
/ 81 375 67 13
acatrdc2013@gmail.com
acatrdc_coordinat@yahoo.fr

ACAT Sénégal / Senegal

Paroisse universitaire St-Dominique
Km4, B.P: 5098 - Dakar-Fann
Sénégal
acatsenegal@yahoo.fr

ACAT Tchad / Tchad

BP 2231
N'Djamena - Tchad
acatchad@yahoo.fr

ACAT Togo / Togo

Avédji Carrefour Limousine
Immeuble MA.GE.COP
Lomé - Togo
Tél. : +228 22 2296 99 / 90 28 71 63
acattogo@yahoo.fr

Amérique / America

ACAT Brésil / Brasil

Praça Clovis Bevilacqua, 351, sala 701
01018-001 Sao Paulo SP - Brésil
Tél. / Fax : +55 11 3101 60 84
acatbrasil@acatbrasil.org.br

ACAT Canada / Canada

2715, ch. de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine
Montreal (Qc) H3T 1B6 - Canada
Tél. : +1 51 48 90 61 69
Fax : +1 51 48 90 64 84
info@acatcanada.org

ACAT Etats Unis / USA

P.P.O. Box 314
Pleasant Hill, TN 38578-0314
États-Unis
revhsmith@starpower.net

Asie / Asia

ACAT Philippines *

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
37 Cordillera Street
Quezon City, Manilla - Philippines
chie6122002@yahoo.com

Europe / Europe

ACAT Allemagne / Germany

Postfach 1114
D-59331 Lüdinghausen - Allemagne
Tél. : +49 (0) 25 91 75 33
Fax : +49 (0) 25 91 70 527
acat.ev@t-online.de

ACAT Belgique Francophone / French speaking Belgium

Quai au Foin 53
B- 1000 Bruxelles - Belgique
Tél. / Fax : +32 (0)2 223 01 59
acatbelgiquefranco@hotmail.com

ACAT Espagne / Spain

c/ Angli 55
08017 Barcelona - Espagne
Tél. : +34 93 203 89 15
Fax : +34 93 203 48 30
acat@pangea.org

ACAT France / France

7 rue Georges Lardennois
F- 75019 Paris - France
Tél. : +33 (0) 1 40 40 42 43
Fax : +33 (0) 1 40 40 42 44
acat@acatfrance.fr

ACAT Italie / Italy

Via della Traspontina 15
00193 Roma - Italie
Tél. : +3906 68 65 358
acatitalia@yahoo.it / posta@acatitalia.it

ACAT Luxembourg / Luxembourg

5 Avenue Marie-Thérèse
L-2132 Luxembourg - Luxembourg
Tél. : +352 44 743 558
Fax : +352 44 743 559
acat.luxembourg@pt.lu

ACAT République Tchèque / Czech Republic*

Pohorelec 26
CZ-118 00 Praha - République tchèque
Tél. : +420 220 515 407
acatpraha@seznam.cz

ACAT Royaume Uni / United Kingdom

8 Southfield
Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4LX - Royaume-Uni
Tél. : +44 17 52 84 34 17
uk.acat@gmail.com

ACAT Suède / ACAT

Swedenacatsweden@yahoo.fr

ACAT Suisse / Switzerland

Speichergasse 29
Case Postale 5011
CH- 3001 Berne - Suisse
Tél. : +41 31 312 20 44
Fax : +41 31 312 58 11
info@acat.ch

* ACAT en cours d'affiliation / Not yet
affiliated associations

Suivez l'actualité de la FIACAT / Follow FIACAT's news

Sur le site internet / On the website



<http://www.fiacat.org>

Sur les réseaux sociaux / On the
social networks



<https://www.facebook.com/FIACAT>



https://twitter.com/FIACAT_Geneva