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et la Démocratie en Afrique Centrale

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Célébration de la JID 2022 - Cameroun

Un Forum de la démocratie voit le jour

Par Evaristus Ngoran

Il a été lancé à la faveur de la célébration de la Journée internationale de la démocratie (JID) qui a été marquée par une table-ronde organisée par le Centre.

Le 21 septembre 2022, le Centre des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Homme et la Démocratie en Afrique Centrale (CNUDHD-AC) a organisé, en collaboration avec le Ministère de la Justice et la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme du Cameroun (CDHC), une table ronde pour commémorer la JID sur le thème du rôle des médias dans les processus démocratiques. Les 15 participants provenaient du Ministère de la Justice, de la CDHC, Elections Cameroun (ELECAM), du Conseil National de la Communication, des universités et des organisations de la société civile.

Lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture, Nouhoum Sangaré, Représentant Régional du Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme et Directeur du CNUDHD-AC, a souligné le lien étroit qui existe entre les droits de l'homme et la démocratie ainsi que quelques attributs universellement reconnus de la démocratie : la participation à la gestion des affaires pu-

bliques, le suffrage universel, la séparation des pouvoirs, l'indépendance de la justice, le contrôle de la constitutionnalité, et les libertés publiques, y compris la liberté de la presse. Il a ensuite lu le message du Secrétaire général à l'occasion de la journée internationale de la démocratie.

Echanges denses avec les experts

Les travaux ont donné lieu à quatre présentations d'experts ainsi qu'à une discussion animée autour du sujet avec tous les participants présents. Les présentations ont débuté par un exposé sur « le rôle et la responsabilité des médias dans l'approfondissement de la démocratie » par Philippe Nanga de l'ONG Un Monde Avenir. Les médias sont, selon l'expert, un acteur intermédiaire pour mettre à disposition du public des informations, qui doivent faire preuve d'indépendance, d'impartialité, d'intégrité et de respect des droits de l'homme. Ils fournissent les informations nécessaires pour inciter à l'engagement citoyen. L'expert a ensuite présenté quelques exigences de la Charte de déontologie de Munich qui importent pour une démocratie fonctionnelle.

Le deuxième exposé a été délivré par Charlie Martial Ngounou de l'ONG AfroLeadership sur le « Rôle des nouveaux médias et des nouvelles technologies dans le fonctionnement de la démocratie ». Les nou-

veaux médias ont été définis comme tous ceux qui sont arrivés après internet. Ils jouent un rôle particulier dans la surveillance des élections et dans l'éducation du public et démocratisent le débat public et les campagnes électorales. Les nouveaux médias ont aussi rendu la censure plus difficile parce qu'un ciblage y est coûteux. Couper internet n'affecte pas uniquement les cibles, mais la population en large. Cependant les nouveaux médias représentent également un risque, notamment la collecte des informations privées sur les individus, bien souvent à leur insu et pour un usage qui n'a pas reçu leur assentiment.

La troisième présentation a été faite par le Professeur Armand Leka Essomba sur le sujet « Médias, démocratie et pessimisme politique aujourd'hui ». Le sociologue considère que le contexte politique actuel est marqué par une ambiance de scepticisme sur le sens philosophique et moral de la démocratie. Il considère que les médias jouent un rôle dans la division du travail politique. Ceci amène à une promiscuité inévitable entre les médias et les politiciens, car les médias doivent être proches des politiciens pour pouvoir parler d'eux. Puisque le pouvoir cherche à s'octroyer le monopole de la parole légitime, il va accorder cet accès uniquement aux médias qui acceptent ce fait. Le pouvoir entretient des relations stratégiques avec la vérité. Les médias sont pré-

sentés comme le quatrième pouvoir dans la séparation des pouvoirs, mais il finit par se corrompre et par corrompre sa parole.

La quatrième et dernière présentation éa été effectuée par Carine Mman du Conseil National de la Communication (CNC) sur le sujet «*Ethique et responsabilité sociale des médias : Désinformation et affaiblissement de la démocratie*». L'experte considère que l'information est un bien public indispensable pour la démocratie. Elle a présenté la Charte de déontologie de Munich et s'est demandée si celle-ci, avec l'avènement du numérique, est respectée. L'internet peut être utilisé comme bouclier contre la désinformation, car de multiples sources sont facilement consultables, mais peut aussi constituer un vecteur de dissémination de la désinformation. Au Cameroun, avec la loi de 2010 sur la Cybersécurité, la propagation de fake news est criminalisée.

Les travaux ont été sanctionnés par des recommandations au nombre desquelles la création d'un Forum Démocratie et Droits de l'Homme au Cameroun avec le Centre et les autres acteurs présents. En outre, les participants ont souhaité un investissement dans l'éducation aux médias des populations notamment les jeunes utilisateurs des réseaux sociaux, la formation des journalistes sur l'approche basée sur les droits de l'homme et le principe de ne laisser personne de côté ou encore la mise en œuvre effective de la Charte africaine de la démocratie, des élections et de la gouvernance. La prochaine rencontre du Forum a été envisagée en octobre 2022 dans les locaux de la Commission des Droits de l'Homme du Cameroun.

Vie des INDH - Gabon

La CNDH renforce ses capacités en matière électorale



Abdoulaye Traoré pendant l'atelier ©cnudhd

Par Kamdem Souop

En prélude aux échéances électorales de 2023, la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH) du Gabon a organisé un atelier avec le soutien du Centre.

Le Centre des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Homme et la Démocratie en Afrique Centrale (CNUDHD-AC) a été invitée par la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH) du Gabon à co-organiser un atelier sur le rôle et la responsabilité de la CNDH dans les processus électoraux. L'atelier qui s'est déroulé le 29 août 2022 à Libreville a réuni une cinquantaine de participants, notamment les commissaires et le personnel de la Commission. L'atelier a été animé par Abdoulaye Traoré, Conseiller régional en démocratie du

CNUDHD-AC. A cette occasion, il a rappelé le rôle stratégique de la Commission avant, pendant et après la période électorale. Au cours de ces trois phases, la CNDH a des actions à mener, au nombre desquelles un plaidoyer auprès du gouvernement pour une harmonisation des lois nationales avec les normes internationales, la communication, la sensibilisation et le renforcement des capacités des acteurs du processus électoral. Par ailleurs, la Commission doit s'assurer de surveiller les élections et en produire un compte rendu. C'est cela qui peut garantir l'intégration systématique du respect, de la protection et de la promotion des droits de l'homme dans les différentes étapes du processus électoral. Au cours des échanges, les participants ont pu découvrir les expériences des CNDH du Niger, du Sénégal et de la Côte d'Ivoire lors des processus électoraux. Ce fut une occasion d'identifier des bonnes pratiques à répliquer.



A YAOUNDE ET BUEA

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Top management

Le nouveau Directeur est arrivé



Le nouveau directeur entouré du personnel du CNUDHD-AC ©cnuhdh

Par Kamdem Souop

De nationalité malienne, Nouhoum Sangaré, le tout nouveau Représentant Régional du Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme (HCDH) et Directeur du Centre des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Homme et la Démocratie en Afrique Centrale (CNUDHD-AC) est arrivé à Yaoundé le 7 août 2022.

Il a été chaleureusement accueilli par le personnel du Centre dont le porte-parole, Abdoulaye Traoré, Conseiller régional en démocratie, a souligné "le soutien total de l'équipe pour le succès de votre mission au sein du Bureau régional", avant de rappeler l'accueil et l'accompagnement dont il avait bénéficié lors de son arrivée au Cameroun en 2009 de la part de M. Sangaré qui était alors Spécialiste des droits de l'homme.

Celui qui était depuis février 2017 le Représentant et Chef des Bureaux de la Cour Pénale Internationale (CPI) en Côte d'Ivoire et au Mali, a dit sa joie de retrouver un pays et un Bureau régional où il avait déjà tra-

vaillé de 2005 à 2008 et de 2009 à 2011. "Je souhaite m'appuyer sur une équipe soudée par un esprit d'équipe autour des objectifs qui nous sont assignés", a-t-il indiqué. Puis, il n'a pas manqué de remercier la Haute-Commissaire pour la confiance placée en lui en le nommant à ce poste.

Une riche carrière onusienne

Diplomate de carrière, Nouhoum Sangaré a précédemment travaillé en qualité de Conseiller des Affaires Étrangères de 1998 à 2004 à la Direction des Affaires Politiques du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et de la Coopération Internationale du Mali, où il fut Chef de la Section ONU et Institutions Spécialisées. Il a aussi été Délégué du Mali en troisième Commission en charge des questions sociales, humanitaires et culturelles, y compris les droits de l'homme, et en première Commission qui traite des questions de désarmement et de sécurité internationale lors des 55ème session (2000) et 56ème session (2001) de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies.

De 2004 à 2017, M. Sangaré a servi dans plusieurs entités des Nations Unies, notamment comme Officier des Affaires Civiles à la Mission de Stabilisation des Nations Unies en Haïti (MINUSTAH) de 2004 à

2005, et au Bureau de New York entre 2011 et 2015, où il a été Coordonnateur pour les questions de développement et de l'Agenda 2030 portant Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD). Il a, en outre, été membre de la Délégation Officielle à Conférence des Nations Unies sur le Développement Durable de 2012 dite Rio+20. Il a, enfin, été Chef de l'Unité Droits de l'Homme du Bureau des Nations Unies d'Appui à la Consolidation de la Paix en Guinée-Bissau (UNOGBIS) entre 2008 et 2009. Avant sa nomination comme Représentant/Chef des Bureaux de la CPI en Côte d'Ivoire et au Mali, Nouhoum Sangaré était Conseiller Technique Principal et Coordonnateur du Projet d'Appui à la Lutte contre la Corruption et le Blanchiment des Capitaux au Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD) au Gabon entre 2015 et 2017.

Titulaire d'une maîtrise en Sciences Juridiques de l'Ecole Nationale d'Administration de Bamako (Mali) et d'un Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées en Droits de l'Homme de l'Université de Nantes (France), il remplace Louis-Marie Bouaka, de nationalité centrafricaine, qui a pris sa retraite le 31 mars 2022 après une carrière onusienne de 27 ans bouclée par un séjour de 3 ans à la tête du CNUDHD-AC.

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Lutte contre les discours de haine

L'Afrique Centrale en ordre de bataille

Par Kamdem Souop

Un projet de stratégie régionale et son plan d'action pour la prévention et la lutte contre les discours de haine dans les supports de communication écrite, audiovisuelle et numérique en Afrique centrale a été adopté à l'issue d'un Forum tenu du 21 au 24 juin 2022 à Kinshasa, capitale de la République Démocratique du Congo (RDC).

Au-delà des éléments essentiels justifiant son élaboration, ce document permet de mieux comprendre le sens des concepts, y compris la différence entre les discours de haine et l'incitation à la violence. Le projet met également l'accent sur la nécessité de se conformer aux normes internationales en matière des droits de l'homme, en particulier les droits à la liberté d'opinion et d'expression. Celle-ci est en effet considérée comme l'un des principaux moyens de lutter contre les discours de haine, à travers notamment des contre-récits, des discours positifs et la promotion d'un espace civique.

Globalement, le projet de stratégie régionale et de son plan d'action pour la prévention et la lutte contre les discours de haine propose des outils appropriés pour faire face à ce phénomène de manière collective et coordonnée. Il définit les acteurs chargés de sa mise en œuvre, le dispositif de coordination ainsi que les priorités de la sous-région dans ce domaine.

L'ONU a salué l'adoption de ce projet de stratégie et de plan d'action, soulignant qu'il s'agit d'une « importante initiative pour le vivre-ensemble dans les pays de l'Afrique centrale ». Parlant au nom de cette organisation lors de la cérémonie de clôture, M. Abdoul Aziz Thioye, Directeur du Bureau conjoint des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme en RDC, représentant la Cheffe de la Mission des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en RDC (MONUSCO), a réitéré la disponibilité de l'ONU à accompagner sa mise en œuvre.

Pour sa part, Madame Nana Manwanina Kiumba, Ministre près le Président de la République, représentante du Chef de l'Etat congolais, a indiqué que la RDC, qui assure



Les participants de l'atelier de Douala @cnuhdh

actuellement la présidence en exercice de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC), fera tout ce qui est possible pour inciter les pays de la sous-région à adhérer aux conclusions du Forum. Elle a précisé que, compte tenu de l'importance du projet de stratégie et du plan d'action adopté, il est « crucial de mettre en mouvement les mécanismes devant permettre aux Etats membres de la CEEAC de l'endosser et de l'intégrer comme outil communautaire de prévention et de lutte contre les discours de haine en Afrique centrale ».

Prévenir les crises sociales

Le Forum de Kinshasa a été aussi marqué par l'adoption de deux Déclarations, celle de l'ensemble des participants et celle des représentants des instances de régulation de la communication et des médias d'Afrique centrale. Ces derniers se sont engagés « fermement à contribuer à la poursuite du processus de validation et de mise en œuvre du projet de stratégie régionale de prévention et de lutte contre les discours de haine en Afrique Centrale adopté lors du Forum de Kinshasa ». Dans le même ordre d'idées, ils ont plaidé pour « un accompagnement en vue du lancement d'un Forum annuel des régulateurs sur les questions de paix et sécurité en Afrique Centrale afin de contribuer à la recherche des solutions durables aux défis de gouvernance qui interpellent les pays de la sous-région ». A cet égard, ils ont exprimé le vœu de « nouer des partenariats formels et dynamiques avec la CEEAC et toutes les autres organisations

régionales et internationales œuvrant pour la paix et le développement » de la sous-région.

L'Angola, le Burundi, le Cameroun, la République Centrafricaine (RCA), le Congo, la RDC, le Gabon et le Tchad étaient représentés au Forum de Kinshasa- qui a mobilisé une centaine de participants, dont des journalistes, blogueurs et autres professionnels de l'information et de la communication ainsi que des régulateurs et autorégulateurs des médias, des membres de la société civile et des confessions religieuses, des commis de l'Etat et des acteurs socio-politiques, entre autres. Il fait suite à une série de rencontres régionales de sensibilisation, de partage d'expériences et de renforcement des capacités de ces différentes cibles tenues à Douala (26 - 29 octobre 2021) et à Bangui (26- 29 avril 2022). Il a été organisé par le Bureau régional des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique centrale (UNOCA) et la CEEAC, en collaboration avec la MONUSCO, la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en RCA (MINUSCA), l'UNESCO, le Centre des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Homme et la Démocratie en Afrique Centrale (CNUDHD-AC), le Bureau conjoint des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme en RDC, le Bureau de la Conseillère spéciale du Secrétaire général de l'ONU pour la prévention du génocide et la responsabilité de protéger (OSAPG) et l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).



Célébration de la JIPA 2022

Les femmes autochtones à l'honneur

Par Joseph Fajong

La place des fêtes de la Commune de Batouri dans le Département de la Kadey, Région de l'Est du Cameroun a accueilli le 9 août la cérémonie officielle de célébration de la Journée Internationale des Peuples Autochtones (JIPA), édition 2022.

Présidée par Pauline Irène Nguene, Ministre des Affaires sociales, l'événement était commémoré sur le thème "Le rôle des femmes autochtones dans la préservation et la transmission des connaissances traditionnelles". La JIPA 2022 a été l'occasion pour le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, Antonio Guterres, dont le message de circonstance a été lu par Joseph Fajong du CNUDHD-AC au nom du Coordonnateur résident du Système des Nations Unies au Cameroun, d'engager "les Etats Membres à mettre en œuvre la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones et à promouvoir les connaissances traditionnelles autochtones au service de toutes et de tous". Cette année, les femmes autochtones des quelques 5000 groupes humains identifiés dans 90 pays ont été saluées pour les connaissances traditionnelles tant médicinales que culinaires dont elles sont les gardiennes, aussi bien que les "championnes des langues et cultures autochtones". C'est aussi comme défenseuses de l'environnement dont elles œuvrent à la durabilité qu'elles sont célébrées cette année.



La Ministre des Affaires Sociales au centre ©cnuhdh

Le Cameroun préoccupé par l'enfant autochtone

Madame Nguene, pour sa part, a souligné que le Cameroun a retenu comme thème de cette édition "La promotion de l'éducation inclusive en contexte post-covid : la place de l'enfant autochtone". Le Département de la Kadey, retenu pour les manifestations de la 28ème édition de la JIPA se justifie par le fait que les populations Baka et Mbororos, peuples autochtones du Cameroun, y vivent en bonne entente avec les autres grands groupes ethniques. "Une vraie illustration du vivre-ensemble que nous sommes venus exalter avec une photographie du Cameroun riche dans sa diversité", a-t-elle indiqué.

Les représentants des peuples autochtones ont porté un plaidoyer pour un meilleur

accès de leurs communautés à l'éducation, à la propriété foncière, à l'eau et l'électrification rurale ainsi qu'une plus grande représentativité dans les sphères décisionnelles ou encore une gestion durable des ressources naturelles puisées dans leur cadre de vie.

En clôture de cette célébration de la JIPA, des actes de naissance ont été délivrés aux femmes et enfants autochtones tandis que les convives ont pu apprécier la riche biodiversité de la forêt ou encore la pharmacopée traditionnelle et la cuisine autochtones.

**Torture can never
be justified.**

Gabon - EPU

Le Gabon prépare le rapport du 4e cycle de l'EPU

Par Dimitte Ngane

Le Centre a animé du 19 au 23 septembre 2022 à Libreville un atelier de validation des rapports périodiques sur les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels, la convention contre la torture et autres peines ou traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants et le Document de base commun.

Le Centre des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Homme et la Démocratie en Afrique Centrale (CNUDHD-AC) a animé un atelier de 5 jours dont l'ouverture officielle a été présidée par Erlyne Antonella Ndembet Damas, Ministre de la Justice, en charge des Droits de l'Homme, en présence de Savina Ammassari, la Coordinatrice Résidente du Système des Nations Unies au Gabon.

Le Gabon est à jour en matière de ratification des traités et mécanismes internationaux. Ce que n'a pas manqué de rappeler Madame Ndembet Damas : « *le Gabon a ratifié la majorité des instruments juridiques internationaux des droits de l'homme, cela montre que les plus hautes autorités du pays en tête desquelles le Président Ali Bongo Ondimba sont résolument engagées à respecter, protéger et réaliser les droits fondamentaux reconnus à toutes les per-*



sonnes vivant sur le territoire ou placer sous sa juridiction. Au nombre de ces mécanismes, il y a l'obligation qui est faite aux États d'élaborer et de soumettre périodiquement, devant les instances des Nations Unies, des rapports sur le niveau de mise en œuvre des engagements souscrits dans le cadre des différentes conventions ».

Toutefois, le pays accuse un retard dans la soumission des rapports. Pour rattraper son retard, il peut compter sur le soutien du CNUDHD-AC avec un tel atelier qui vise à finaliser deux rapports périodiques, au titre des Conventions contre la torture, les traitements cruels, inhumains et dégradants, ainsi que le Document de base. Le Comité interministériel sur les normes contenues dans les deux conventions a saisi l'occasion de cet atelier pour renforcer davantage ses

capacités. L'atelier a aussi permis de vulgariser les recommandations issues des deux derniers examens des Comités desdites conventions. Enfin, l'atelier a donné l'occasion de collecter les informations complémentaires, en vue d'enrichir les drafts de rapports et le Document commun de base. Toutes choses qui amorcent le processus d'élaboration du rapport du 4e cycle d'Examen Périodique Universel (EPU) qui débutera en janvier 2023.

Ont pris part aux travaux de hauts responsables de la Pprimature, des parlementaires, la société civile et la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme rimature, des parlementaires, la société civile et la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme

Photo de famille ©cnuhd



IMPARTIAL, INDEPENDENT
RULE OF LAW IS VITAL



Cameroon - Capacity Building

Journalists trained on safety, digital security in crisis reporting



Journalists sharing best practices ©cnuhdh

By Joseph Fajong

The training workshop is one in a series of activities funded by the Netherlands, geared towards enhancing the safety and protection of journalists in Central Africa

Some 31 journalists including 13 females drawn from various online, radio, television and print media from the Northwest, Southwest, West and Littoral regions of Cameroon, covering the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest have ac-

quired knowledge of the relevant human rights guarantees for their safety as well as their role in enhancing respect for human rights law. The two-day training which was organised by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA) from 21 to 22 September 2022 in Buea, also equipped them with tools for mitigating the risks they encounter in online and offline reporting in crisis situations.

The main objective of the training was to enhance the knowledge of participants in international human rights law and the incorporation of a human rights-based ap-

proach to reporting; equip participants with tools for their online presence and safety and share skills on how to mitigate risks involved in online journalism and field reporting. The workshop also focused on responsibilities of media professionals in respecting ethics and deontology, and created a platform for experience sharing for journalists working in crisis regions.

While presenting on Online Presence and Safety of Journalists, Benyella Njeko, one of the facilitators indicated that Online presence gives a wider audience, a broad network but also exposes one to risks which could lead to depression, online shutdown, arrest or even death

While focusing on the responsibilities of journalists and on risk mitigating measures in field reporting during crisis, the representative of the Cameroon Association for Journalists -Tarhyang Tabe and a multi-award-winning investigative journalist-Tamfu Arison Tamfu, both laid emphasis on how Journalists can toe the line while doing their job, respecting ethics, being productive and consistently updating their knowledge and skills with the changing times. Above all, it was reiterated by the facilitators, that a journalist must always prioritize his/her safety and take precautions for their protection.

The workshop also encouraged networking and created a platform for sharing experiences and learning from one another on protection best practices.

What they said...



Derrick Barka, Online Journalist, Bamenda

"We prioritize human rights abuses and violations in our reporting"

Participating in this workshop on the safety and digital security of journalists and media professionals as someone working online in the restive Northwest Region is timely. I have changed some of my passwords to enhance the security of my online platforms as a result of the workshop. As a team, at www.hilltopvoices.com, we have taken a decision to prioritize human rights abuses and violations in our reporting. As a media trade union leader, my hope is to ensure that some of the suggestions made during discussions are implemented to support the efforts of the UN Human Rights Regional Office in Yaounde in ensuring the safety of journalists and related media professionals.



**Schola Maloke, Journalist,
CRTV Littoral, Douala**

"I know how to angle my reports"

The workshop on crisis reporting and digital safety of journalists, was very enriching. Knowledge gained from it especially in the domains of auto protection as well as protecting oneself

on and offline, has made me know what to do to keep safe while reporting crisis. In addition, I now know how to angle my reports such that I put the information out without indicting any of the warring factions. Also, the aspect of informing authorities of my presence wherever I go for work was a welcome idea in addition to informing a trustworthy colleague or family member of my whereabouts whenever I step out to investigate something will go a long way to help me keep safe as I carry out my duties as a journalist.



**Sylvia Waindim, Freelance
Journalist, Bamenda**

"I have to inform and educate while being safe"

The workshop in Buea stood out for 2 reasons: first is because of the digital security component. The crises heightened the existing abundance of

vulnerability online which is using information to attack online and offline. The presentations made me do instant changes to take precautions as journalist reporting on crises.

Secondly the experience sharing from journalists who have had near death experiences from separatists gave me an unforgettable picture of the responsibility I have as a journalist to myself and to my community to inform and educate while being safe.



**Frederick Tarkang, Journalist,
BBC Afrique, Bamenda**

"J'ai été enlevé dans le cadre de mon travail et dépouillé"

Le sors de deux jours de séminaire très riches en enseignements pour moi qui couvre, pour le compte de mon media, le conflit dans le Nord-Ouest anglophone du Cameroun. Les thématiques axées sur la sécurité du journaliste ou les précautions à prendre ont apporté un plus dans mes connaissances. Vous savez que je suis l'une des victimes de ce conflit, où j'ai été enlevé dans le cadre de mon travail, dépouillé et dépossédé de certains biens, sans compter mon matériel de travail emporté. Je dis merci aux organisateurs.



**Emmanuel Bah Toko, Journalist,
CBC Radio, Bamenda**

"We will definitely adopt a human rights approach"

First, our coverage of the crisis in the North West and South West as a Christian Radio station has been from a redemptive and peace building perspective and may have just been helping to fuel the crisis. But, from the training we had in Buea we will definitely adopt a human rights approach, avoiding blame and being sensitive to the different ideological narratives in order to prevent escalations.

Cameroon - Capacity Building

Military and civilian magistrates trained in Bertoua



By Judith Kiconco

The Centre, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice of Cameroon, organised a training on International human rights law and international humanitarian law in Bertoua.

From 23 to 24 August 2022, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA), in partnership with the Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE) of Cameroon, organised a two-day workshop on international human rights law and international humanitarian law for military and civilian magistrates as well as lawyers in Bertoua, Cameroon. The objective of workshop was to build the capacity of the participants in incorporating international human rights and humanitarian law considerations in their legal analysis and judicial decision-making processes.

The training which was attended by thirty participants, including ten women, also served as an opportunity for sharing best practices. The opening session was presided over by Hismaïla Mamadou, the Procureur Général of the East region while the

rest of the sessions were jointly facilitated by UNCHRD-CA and MINJUSTICE. Presentations focused on international, regional and national human rights standards and mechanisms; international humanitarian law; right to a fair hearing, right to liberty; protection of victims and witnesses in cases of sexual violence and the right to redress in human rights law. Group work was also incorporated in the sessions to allow for a practical application of the principles presented. The participants actively engaged in the sessions, with questions on how to classify various conflicts and exhaustion of local remedies in cases of individual complaints to international human rights mechanisms. The workshop is part of the efforts to strengthen the longstanding cooperation between UNCHRD-CA and MINJUSTICE in the promotion and protection of human rights law.



Burundi

On 9 September 2022, a new Cabinet assumed duty following a cabinet reshuffle initiated two days earlier with the appointment of Mr Gervais Ndirakobuca, former Minister of Interior, Community Development and Public Security as Prime Minister in replacement of Mr. Alain-Guillaume Bunyoni who was dismissed by President Evariste Ndayishimiye. Ten out of 15 ministers of the former Cabinet have been maintained in their positions, including Ms Imelde Sabushimike, Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender from the indigenous Batwa community. The five newcomers are all members of the ruling party CNDD-FDD. The change concerns the Ministry of Agriculture, Breeding and Environment; the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning; the Ministry of Civil Service, Labour and Employment; the Ministry of Infrastructures, Equipment and Social Housing; and the Ministry of Interior, Community Development and Public Security. Women representation stuck at five (33%) Cabinet members. The Cabinet is expected to assume reinforced leadership in response to the country facing acute challenges, including the shortage of fuel and basic commodities as well as the preparation of important political agendas such as the 2025 general elections. Its capacity to advance human rights will be also one of the key benchmarks of its performance appraisal.

Burundi

On 23 August 2022, the SHRA, Bamazi Tchaa, organized a consultation with groups at risk of being left behind in the context of the 2023-2027 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The workshop brought together representatives of four different groups, namely the organizations of persons with disabilities, people living with HIV, people with albinism and the Burundian indigenous Batwa community. Although the meeting is part of the overall UNSDCF process designed to foster meaningful participation of the broader spectrum of the stakeholders, it was of a critical significance for the targeted groups to contribute to this important programming endeavor where they are usually left behind and marginalized in making decisions affecting them. The theory of change, which integrates an outcome on governance and human rights out of the five outcomes of the overall UNSDCF, was presented and discussed on how best reinforce the needs and rights of the concerned groups throughout the entire process, including implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The 47 participants, including 19

women further met in different groups composed along the three categories of stakeholders and discussed issues that would underscore the realities and effectivity of their human rights through strengthening their participation and ownership, including the challenges encountered in exercising rights, the proposed responses, the means of achievement and responsibilities.

Burundi

On 16 August 2022, the SHRA, Bamazi Tchaa, participated in and facilitated a training session organized by the Protection Cluster for members of the Shelter Sub-sector on holistic protection in the humanitarian context. The session was part of a series to raise awareness and reinforce the skills of the members of the Protection Cluster in their operations to ensure the respect for the rights of individuals in line with the international human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law. It focused on shelter, especially on fostering protection while providing shelter to those in need of urgent assistance in humanitarian situations. Discussions emphasized the requirement for the humanitarian actors to uphold the human rights principles during their interventions, including accountability in the provision of services to the needy and for human rights violations and abuses, fight against impunity and enforcement of effective remedy, respect for the dignity of people, and participation and empowerment of the rights holders.

Burundi

On 12 August 2022, the SHRA, Bamazi Tchaa, participated in a discussion on the rule of law and the human rights situation in Burundi organized by the US Embassy in Burundi. The meeting took place during the visit of two senior professional staff members from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a very influential body that oversees foreign policy advising and funding of State Department operations. The discussion addressed the human rights situation in Burundi, particularly since the lifting, on 18 November 2021, of US sanctions and visa restrictions imposed on eleven individuals in 2015. Participants noted a lack of improvement in Burundi's overall human rights situation with no tangible signs of change in the Government's posture vis-à-vis international human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi, and efforts needed to advance the human rights agenda.

Burundi

On 9 August 2022, Burundi celebrated the International Day of the World's Indigenous

Peoples, in Gitega, the capital city, under the auspices of the Vice-President. The event was an awareness raising campaign of diverse Governmental and social entities, including representatives of indigenous organizations and communities. Discussions focused on the current situation of the rights of Batwas, the Burundian indigenous people, the challenges they face in exercising and enjoying their rights and initiatives underway to advance these rights. The Vice-President announced some measures that the Government has pledged to implement henceforth, including the admission in the Government boarding schools of every Batwa child who passed the exam for secondary school; the identification of all qualified unemployed Batwa youth with the purpose of assisting them find a suitable job; and the requirement for local administrations to provide Batwa communities with settlement spaces within their respective jurisdictions. The UN Resident Coordinator presented efforts being made by the Country Team to promote the rights of Batwa in the context of the 2023-2027 UNSDCF which places an emphasis on the principle of Leaving No One Behind in all the phases of the development of the Cooperation Framework, from the consultations to the implementation through the definition of the theory of change. He also mentioned the UN Scoping Mission on the rights of Batwa which took place in June 2022 and which was a key step towards improving the living conditions of that community.

Burundi

From 3 to 4 August 2022, the UNCT organized a workshop on the 2023-2027 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). Discussions focused on the "Governance and Human Rights" strategic priority, which is one of the three strategic priorities of the overall UNSDCF as well as on the deriving outcomes and outputs. The SHRA, Bamazi Tchaa, facilitated a session on human rights indicators. The workshop was attended by the UNSDCF joint technical task force composed of representatives of UN agencies and line Government Ministries. It was emphasized that human rights and the rule of law are the backbone of the governance strategic priority and should be reflected across the UNSDCF as a prerequisite to ensuring that deep-rooted human rights deficiencies are adequately captured. Despite poor records and lack of commitment on human rights over the past years, the Government showed some openness to agreeing to prioritize human rights in the UNSDCF developed jointly between the UN and the larger spectrum of stakeholders in



Burundi.

Cameroon

On 13 and 14 September 2022, the Ministry of Social Affairs organized the second ordinary session of the National Committee on Readaptation and Reinsertion of Persons with Disabilities (CONRHA) in Yaoundé, Cameroon. CONRHA is constituted of its statutory members including representatives of different ministries whose work is relevant to disability rights and organizations of persons with disabilities. During the session the inclusion of persons with disabilities was reviewed and recommendations to improve their situation were made. UNCHRD-CA provided technical assistance through presentations on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and on the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026.

Cameroon

On 13 September 2022, UNCHRD-CA participated virtually in the presentation of the results of a FAO project TCP/RAF/3803. The project mapped available statistical data disaggregated by sex and gender in the fields of agriculture and rural development and identified gaps. It aimed to allow stakeholders involved in the elaboration of the National Agricultural Investment Plan to understand the results of the project and to identify the needs for capacity building to improve gender and sex disaggregated data. Participants included the UN system, sectorial ministries whose work is relevant to agriculture, and civil society actors.

Cameroon

On 18 and 20 August 2022, UNCHRD-CA conducted a mission on the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of support projects for victims of torture and contemporary forms of slavery in Douala (nine participants) and Bamenda (five participants including three women). The mission was carried out in the context of the management of the voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery and victims of torture. It focused on the evaluation of two projects that had been implemented by two NGOs; Working for our Wellbeing in Douala: WFW (project on torture) and Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy in Bamenda: CHRAPA (project on contemporary forms of slavery); as well as on the organizational capacity assessment of the NGOs. The monitoring and evaluation included office visits, projects' documentation review and interviews with the project beneficiaries and projects teams. CARO found that while the legal and social context had evolved especially with the amendment

of the Penal code Act in 2016, there is still need for reform of certain legal frameworks and to adopt accompanying measures conducive to improving the rule of law in general namely, the need for a law on victims and witness protection.

Cameroon

On 25 August 2022, UNCHRD-CA participated in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meeting in Yaoundé and made a presentation on the 2014 anti-terrorism law of Cameroon. The presentation was made at the request of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) following the last HCT retreat in July 2022, in which the members raised the issue of the repressive character of the legislation, especially its negative impact on the rights of humanitarian workers. The presentation highlighted the negative human rights implications in the application of some of the law's provisions in particular the definition of acts of terrorism, death penalty and competent jurisdiction for acts of terrorism.

Chad

With a view to a partnership with the Chadian national army on human rights and international humanitarian law, the Chad Office, through the Military Adviser of the Compliance Framework project G5 Sahel, led a training module on the theme "understanding the Geneva Convention I", for the benefit of trainees of the Application Course for Infantry Section Chiefs (CACSI) of the Chadian Army. Twenty-seven trainee officers, all men, participated in the training session on September 21, 2022. The training session raised a lot of interest from the participants and constitutes, with those organized previously, an entry point for a possible proposal for OHCHR support to the national army regarding IH and IHL during military operations including counterterrorism operations.

The work of the National Inclusive and Sovereign Dialogue continued. Regarding Commission 3, relating to Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, 72 recommendations were made. After the presentation of the summary of the work by the office of the Commission, discussions were held on the excessive use of third-degree force during demonstrations by the FDS (national defence and security forces), and the interference of the National Security Agency in the affairs within the jurisdiction of the courts. Recommendations were made for resolutions which prohibit excessive use of force by FDS during demonstrations.

Chad

The National Inclusive Dialogue entered a decisive stage on 7 September when the

work in thematic committees started. There is a strong presence of women, youth, and political military groups in the different commissions' bureaus. The thematic commissions with the highest number of registrations are respectively: the Form of the State, the Constitution, and the Electoral Process (50%), Peace, Social Cohesion and National Reconciliation (25%) and Societal Issues (20%). The other participants were divided into the Committees on Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Committee on Sectoral Public Policies. The 3rd Committee on fundamental rights and freedoms was divided into three thematic sub-committees. The methodology of the thematic sub-committee on Constitution and Institutions was strongly contested by the participants and discussions were tense, in particular on the form of the state (unitary or federal), the representation of ethnic groups/regions in public affairs. After three days of work, the sub-committees validated their reports. On 10 September, six human rights associations announced by press release the suspension of their participation to the national dialogue, including the President of the 3rd sub-committee on human rights and fundamental freedom.

Chad

On 9 September, the president of the Transformateurs political party announced that, as he and his supporters were on their way to the courthouse to respond to the summons of the Public Prosecutor issued on 8 September, they were forced to turn back after tear gas was used by the security forces on the crowd around 7:45 am. According to him, they took refuge at the headquarters of the said party in the Chagoua district (7th arrondissement). On the same day, an OHCHR monitoring team noted the presence of more than sixty security forces vehicles made up of the National Police (PN), the National Gendarmerie (GN), the Mobile Police Intervention Group (GMIP) and Military Police on the perimeter leading to the Transformateurs party headquarters between 12:05 p.m. - 12:15 p.m. The security and defence forces had tear gas grenades and AK47 type assault rifles and left the scene at around 2:00 p.m.

Chad

From 30 August to 1 September 2022, in N'Djamena, Chad, OHCHR organized a training workshop for Representatives of the National Human Rights Commission, the National House of Women (Maison Nationale de la Femme), Judiciary Police Officers, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including legal clinics, on the multidisciplinary care and assistance to victims of



human rights violations, including acts of torture and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The activity was organized in the framework of Pillar 3 of the ISF Project (Victims and witnesses of human rights violations have safe access to justice, including sexual violence committed by Internal Security Forces) which aims to strengthen the capacity of victims to access justice to assert their rights. Thirty people, including 17 women, attended the training.

Chad

From 29 August to 1 September 2022, in Bakara (25 km from N'Djamena), OHCHR supported the Ministry of Justice in charge of Human Rights in organising a training on human rights in detention and the methodology of the verification of illegal and arbitrary detention cases. This is an activity of the interagency project to support a peaceful and inclusive political and institutional transition, financed by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. The objective was to strengthen the capacities of investigators and enable them to monitor and identify illegal and arbitrary detention cases throughout Chad. The workshop brought together 34 participants, including seven women. The National Human Rights Commission was fully involved in this activity.

Chad

On 28 August, a presidium was formed to lead the national inclusive and sovereign dialogue (DNIS). Some participants denounced the non-respect of consensus in the constitution of the presidium while others announced their withdrawal from the dialogue. On the same day, a coalition called the Harmonization Committee made up of civil society organizations and protesting political parties was set up to reject the presidium. The president of the liberal professional orders of Chad also challenged the presidium. Trade unionists, representatives of the media and human rights associations subscribed to the same logic. The denunciation of the presidium was supported by the religious organizations Entente des Eglises et Missions Evangeliques du Tchad (EEMET) and Union des mouvements et associations des laïcs de l'Église catholique du Tchad (UMALECT). On 30 August, the President of the presidium suggested the establishment of an ad hoc facilitation committee to bring to the table those who do not agree with the ongoing process. On 31 August, the President of the Presidium issued a decision establishing the said ad hoc committee made up of 29 members including six women. The mission of the facilitation committee is to undertake all contacts aimed at strengthening the inclusive nature of the National Dialogue and

maintaining serenity between its components. The ad hoc committee has 48 hours to complete its mandate. The work of the national Inclusive and sovereign dialogue will resume on 2 September 2022.

Chad

On 24 August 2022, the Chair of the CODNI opened the work of the Inclusive and Sovereign National Dialogue (DNIS) in N'Djamena, in presence of the Prime Minister, the President and members of the National Transitional Council, members of the Government, participants and observers. The first day was devoted to Presentation of the CODNI's preparatory works and presentation of the preliminary draft of the internal rules of procedure. The work was suspended after that presentation and resumed on 25 August with the examination and adoption of the rules of procedure and the establishment of the presidium. As per the request of the CODNI, the UN system has set up a UN team of observers (comprising staff members of UNDP, UNFPA, RCO and OHCHR) of the dialogue with the responsibility of producing daily reports. At the CODNI request, OHCHR has designated two staff as observers at the Dialogue.

Chad

During his meeting held on 20 August 2022, the president of the Transformers political party announced the arrest of his supporters who came from Kousseri and who were going to the location of the meeting and those of Moundou who were arrested on the same date. The Chad office followed up on these arrests on August 24, 2022 with the Secretary of the Transformers political party. The 32 activists of Kousseri were kept at the police station from 8 am to 12 pm and released. The activists of Moundou were dispersed with tear gas. According to the secretary of the party, four were injured and 12 arrested and detained at the Moundou Research Brigade. On the same day, 10 other Transformers party's activists were arrested and detained at the central police station in Moundou. All 22 activists arrested were released the same day. No physical harm was recorded during their detention at the Ngueli police station or at the research brigade and central police station in Moundou. However, verbal intimidation was noted.

Chad

The situation in Chad during the week under review is relatively calm but remains volatile with possible rebel attacks and calls for uprisings linked to the holding of the National Inclusive Dialogue (NID). Although all politico-military groups who have signed the Doha agreements have returned to

N'Djamena to participate in the NID that will start on 20 August, the fact that 18 politico-military groups did not sign the agreement remains a concern with respect to the ceasefire provided for in the peace agreement. On 11 August, the president of the political party «Les Transformateurs» called his supporters to resist and to take part in a meeting at his home on 20 August, the day the NID starts. He reiterated the conditions for his participation in the dialogue, namely the revision of the Transition Charter, and the revision of the quota within the organizing Committee of the dialogue (CODNI). On 15 August, the Coordinator of the coalition of civil society and political parties "Wakit Tamma" issued a press release calling for a "decisive march", on 19 August, one day before the opening of the dialogue in N'Djamena. In his speech, he denounced widespread insecurity, the Doha peace agreement, poor governance and the fears that the Transitional Military Council will continue to rule the country. On 17 August, the Ministry of Public Security and Immigration strictly prohibited the 19 August march for non-compliance with the legal deadline for filing the authorization request. The Chad Office continues to monitor the situation and plans to monitor both the meeting of the political party «Les Transformateurs» at its headquarters on 20 August, and the protest of 19 August if it is maintained by the organizers.

Chad

On 10 August, the Chad Office organized in N'Djamena a launching ceremony of the Trust Building Mechanism between the local population and Internal Security Forces (ISF). The mechanism is part of the implementation of Pillar 4 of the ISF Project (community dialogue) and aims to increase confidence between the ISF, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the civil society organizations (CSOs) and the local population. The ceremony was held in the presence of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Public Security and Immigration representing the Minister, members of the NHRC, Mayors of the districts of N'Djamena as well as 22 representatives of CSOs (7 women), including women and youths' organizations. The Office additionally met with the Human Rights Advisor to the Presidency and the Director of Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice in Charge of human rights to discuss ways to support the National Inclusive Dialogue especially regarding the integration of the human rights issues in the work of the Dialogue. According to the Prime Minister's decree of 4 August regarding the quotas for participation in the national inclusive dialogue,



287 persons representing 21% of the total participants in the Dialogue will come from civil society organizations, with 20 seats allocated specifically to organizations for the defence of human rights. The Ministry of Justice in charge of Human Rights was requested the CODNI to facilitate the nomination and participation of Human Rights organizations.

Chad

On 8 August 2022, a peace agreement was finally signed in Doha, Qatar, between politico-military movements and the Chadian Transitional Government in the presence of the President of the Transitional Military Council (PTMC), the UN, the AU, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Out of the 52 politico-military movements, 18 of them (including the Front for Change and Concord in Chad (FACT) and the Command Council for the Salvation of the Republic (CCSMR)) did not sign the agreement. According to these 52 politico-military groups, their demands were not taken into consideration in the agreement. These demands include: the parity of delegates to the Inclusive National Dialogue, the establishment of a new National Inclusive Dialogue Organizing Committee, the revision of the quota for participation in the dialogue, the release of their imprisoned members, the modification of the transitional charter and the formation of a Republican army. These groups announced the establishment of a Permanent Framework for Consultation and Reflection (CPCR) and said they remained open to discussions. The PTMC continues to call the non-signatory movements to join the peace agreement. The UN and the AU have welcomed the Doha agreement considered an important prerequisite for lasting peace in Chad. While some Chadians welcome the latest developments in the Doha talks, which they consider a step forward in the transition process, others deplore the withdrawal of military movements, including FACT. Since the ceasefire only binds the signatories of the agreement, instability and military action on Chadian territory threaten the whole process. According to CODNI, the National Inclusive Dialogue to start on 20 August is scheduled to last 21 days. Discussions will focus on topics such as peace, social cohesion and national reconciliation, the form of the state, the constitution, the institutional reform, the electoral process, fundamental rights and freedoms. Security during the dialogue will be provided by all defence and security forces.

Chad

From 1 to 5 August, the Chad Office organized a training workshop on techniques

for monitoring and reporting human rights violations during the transition period (PBF-funded project) in Koundoul (about 25 km from N'Djamena), with the objective of strengthening the capacities of CSOs during the national dialogue, the constitutional referendum, and the general elections. The workshop brought together 38 participants (including 18 women) of CSOs from N'Djamena and six other provinces (Eastern Logone, Western Logone, Mandoul, Eastern Mayo Kebbi, Western Mayo Kebbi and Ouaddaï). OHCHR was supported in this activity by the Ministry of Justice, the NHRC, UNICEF and UNFPA. During the training, discussions on challenges encountered related to impunity and social injustice, modalities of social auditing by CSOs, collaboration with the Government and the NHRC and their contribution to the inclusive national dialogue. A civil society monitoring deployment plan will be adopted at the end of the workshop.

Some progress seems to have been made recently with the return of some politico-military groups, including FACT (Front pour l'Alternance et la Concorde au Tchad), which belongs to the Rome Group (twenty movements) and had suspended their participation to the Doha talks in Qatar. A draft agreement mentioned in the media on 30 July 2022 proposes a general ceasefire and gives security guarantees to rebel leaders who will return to N'Djamena. A non-Chadian unit would be in charge of their security. In N'Djamena, as a prelude to the Inclusive National Dialogue scheduled to start on 20 August, the President of the Transitional Military Council held a series of meetings and consultations with stakeholders this week, including leaders of political parties, social organisations, traditional and religious authorities. The preliminary draft of the quotas for participation in the National Inclusive Dialogue relayed by the media has raised concerns among the population about the inclusive nature of the event. It is expected that 1,412 persons will be invited to participate in the dialogue. However, according to the international media, the Mouvement Patriotique du Salut (MPS), the party of the late President Idriss Deby Itno, will have 525 representatives, which is more than a third of the participants. The criterion for participation is mainly their legal existence as determined in the last elections. The rebel movements participating to the Doha talks will have 52 seats.

Congo

The Senior Human Rights Adviser in the Republic of Congo, with inputs from TES-PREDD, UNCHRD-CA and Africa Branch provided comments on the draft law on res-

torative justice shared by the Minister Delegate and High Commissioner on juvenile and restorative justice. On 21 July, she coordinated a technical meeting with the High Commissioner's team, UNICEF and UNDP on the UN comments.

Congo

The SHRA has been working with NIRMS and CARO on the review of the NHRI legislation to make it compliant with the Paris Principles. On 19 July, she held the fourth meeting with the NHRI completing the review of the law with them. In terms of next steps, once the draft law is cleared by NIRMS, the SHRA will assist the NHRI to draft an advocacy memorandum to the authorities explaining the drastic changes made in the current law.

Congo

The SHRA with CARO support is advising the authorities to set up a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF). Congo is expected to submit its UPR report in October 2023 and has many outstanding reports due to treaty bodies. For example, it has never reported to CESC since the ratification in 1989. On 20 July, the Resident Coordinator sent a letter with annexes to the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Indigenous People on the NMRF. He is expected to meet with the Minister next week to continue with the advocacy.

DR Congo

From 16 to 21 September 2022, the High Military Court of Kinshasa conducted mobile court hearings in Bukavu, South Kivu province, on the appeals of the cases of the defendants Chance Mihonya Kolokolo and Benjamin Manzambi Bozi in one case, and Amos Safari Kateatea in the second case. Mihonya, an FARDC deserter, had created his own militia for the purpose of the illegal exploitation of the resources of Kahuzi-Biega national park. He was arrested in May 2020 and convicted and sentenced in September 2021 by the South Kivu Military Court to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity by murder, rape and other inhumane acts and for war crimes by recruiting and using child soldiers and for the destruction of flora and fauna, and the illegal exploitation of natural resources, while Bozi was acquitted for lack of evidence. Kateatea, then a Colonel in the FARDC, was arrested in May 2019 and sentenced in December 2019 to five years of imprisonment for crimes against humanity, for murders, rapes, torture and other inhumane acts committed by the soldiers in the battalion under his command. The court is expected to render its decision by 23 September 2022. The UNJHRO, along with other part-



ners in the International Criminal Justice Task Force (ICJTF) in South Kivu, provided logistical and financial support for this hearing. In addition, the UNJHRO also monitored the appeal and provided support for victim and witness protection.

DR Congo

The Minister of Human Rights launched the second phase of the national consultations on transitional justice in Lualaba Province on 9 September 2022 and in Haut-Katanga Province on 14 September 2022. These consultations, which are organized with the technical, logistical and financial support of the UNJHRO, aim at collecting and analyzing the views and demands of local populations on the right to truth, the right to justice, the right to reparation and the guarantees of non-repetition. After a three-day training, the 45 consultants, including 16 women, will then be deployed for ten days throughout the territories of Haut-Katanga Province to collect qualitative and quantitative data on the needs and expectations of the local populations in terms of transitional justice. Twenty-seven consultants have already received training and were deployed throughout the territories of Lualaba. The next consultations will be held in Haut-Lomami Province from 21 September. This follows a first series of launching ceremonies of national consultations organized in Tanganyika, Kasai, North Kivu and Kongo Central Provinces between 2 and 21 March 2022.

DR Congo

From 7 to 11 September 2022, the UNJHRO conducted an investigation mission in Djugu and Irumu territories, Ituri province, in order to verify and document allegations of human rights abuses by Coopérative pour le développement du Congo (CODECO) and Forces de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri (FRPI), as well as allegations of human rights violations attributable to the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC), reported between March and August 2022. During the mission, the team interviewed 47 victims and witnesses (28 men and 19 women) and documented 38 new cases of violations and abuses of human rights including 28 abuses attributed to CODECO, four abuses attributed to FRPI and six violations attributed to FARDC soldiers. The team also followed up on four cases of human rights abuses attributable to CODECO, which had been previously documented. Most of the victims of these cases belong to the Hema and Alur communities. The redeployment of FARDC units from Djugu territory to North Kivu to fight against the M23 has left a security vacuum, which has enabled CODECO to ex-

pand its control, and increased threats to civilians, as demonstrated by the numerous abuses of human rights committed by this group despite their commitment to a unilateral ceasefire on 15 June 2022. The mission recommended that early warning mechanisms be reinforced in the area, by strengthening collaboration between local authorities, the FARDC, civil society and local populations.

DR Congo

As part of its efforts to fight impunity for human rights violations, the UNJHRO, along with other partners in the International Criminal Justice Task Force (ICJTF) in South Kivu including TRIAL and the Prosecution Support Cells, provided logistical and financial support for and participated in, a judicial investigation mission (JIT) organized by the South Kivu Auditeur Militaire Supérieur's office in Kabamba, Kabare territory, South Kivu province, from 28 August to 1st September 2022. The purpose of the mission was to investigate human rights violations related to crimes against humanity including murder, rape, torture and looting, burning of homes and schools, kidnapping and enforced disappearance perpetrated by the FARDC, Nyatura and Conseil national pour le renouveau et la démocratie (CNRD) combatants in the villages of Katasomwa, Chirimino, Chigoma, Mushunguti, Chitenbwa, and Murhangu in Kalehe territory, South Kivu between March and April 2021. The UNJHRO together with TRIAL, provided logistical and financial support for the participation of the victims, five lawyers from the South Kivu bar and a psychologist. The UNJHRO also ensured that the previously established victim and witness protection plan was implemented throughout the investigations. During the investigations, a total of 112 victims and witnesses were interviewed. Based on the results of the mission, the Taskforce recommended that the national judicial authorities issue arrest warrants and to refer the case to the Military Court for the holding of mobile court hearings.

DR Congo

There has been a surge in attacks against civilians by Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in Beni territory, North Kivu, with at least 18 civilians killed in six separate incidents between 3 and 8 September 2022. The last incident, which took place on the night of 7 September and during which at least five civilians, including three women, were killed, happened within the joint operational area of the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) and the Uganda people's defence forces (UPDF). Anti-MONUSCO sentiment has also conti-

nued in Beni and throughout the Grand Nord. Earlier during the week, a civilian participating in a group of demonstrators pelting stones at a MONUSCO convoy, was shot and killed, presumably by Congolese security and defence forces. The pressure group Veranda Mutsanga called for a day of demonstrations against MONUSCO, with only motorbikes allowed to move in Beni town on 12 September 2022.

Equatorial Guinea

Following the Senate Approval of the new penal code in May 2022, it was announced on 17 August that the President approved the new penal code, which does not refer to the death penalty. The new Code, which has been approved by Law 4/2022 (17 August), which is to replace law 4/1980 (3 April), was published in the Official Bulletin and is to take effect 90 days from the day of its publication. The new penal code is likely to take effect from December 2023. The last execution by capital punishment in Equatorial Guinea was in January 2014. Nine people convicted of murder were executed days before a temporary moratorium was imposed, until the present date. Strong advocacy from the CPLP (the Community of Portuguese Language Countries) and the United Nations, among other actors, contributed to this positive development. However, more advocacy is needed since the death penalty remains in the Constitution and in the military code.

Gabon

From 19 to 22 September 2022, UNCHRD-CA in cooperation with the UPR Branch, the Senior Human Rights Adviser Congo, and the Ministry of Justice of Gabon, organized a workshop for the validation of the periodic reports to CESC and CAT and UPR national report (to be submitted by 10 October 2022). Participants initiated the drafting of the periodic report to the Human Rights Committee. The workshop, which was organized at the request of the Government of Gabon, was presided over by the Minister of Justice and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Gabon. Participants (40 out of which 13 women) included Governmental officials, the National Human Rights Commission and CSOs. They reviewed the draft reports and made numerous amendments, which will be taken into consideration in the final drafts before validation by the Council of Ministers. On 23 September, the team held a debriefing meeting with the Ministry of Justice during which concerns, suggestions and recommendations were presented to her in relation to making the NMRF a permanent body, the upcoming elections, and the readiness of the UN to support the country in

Le dernier plaidoyer de Pie Ntakarutimana



Par Kamdem Souop

Spécialiste des droits de l'homme en service au CNUDHD-AC depuis 2015, Pie Ntakarutimana, 61 ans, s'est éteint le 26 août 2022 à Ottawa des suites de maladie.

Véritable icône des droits de l'homme dans son pays, le Burundi, Pie Ntakarutimana est un militant des droits de l'homme qui manquera à sa famille, à ses collègues mais aussi aux différents acteurs des droits de l'homme qui ont cheminé avec lui depuis 1998. La maladie a eu raison de sa dernière bataille le 26 août 2022 à Ottawa au Canada. Jusqu'au bout sa bonne humeur légendaire n'aura pas quitté son corps meurtri.

Cette humeur positive qui aura frappé tous ceux qui ont connu Pie Ntakarutimana cachait un drame qui s'est abattu sur sa famille lors du génocide des Tutsis au Burundi en 1993. Il y a perdu quasiment tous les siens et en gardera une blessure profonde, même s'il avait fini par accorder son pardon aux acteurs de cette barbarie. Lors d'un documentaire radiophonique produit sur sa

vie et intitulé "Pie Ntakarutimana, Vivre debout", produit par RCN Justice & Démocratie, il disait ceci : " Si je peux ne pas me retrouver en face de l'assassin de ma mère qui a grandi dans notre maison et que j'ai aidé avec ma bourse d'étudiant, je préférerais. Mais s'il souhaite me voir, je suis aujourd'hui prêt à le faire".

Ingénieur devenu activiste

Pie Ntakarutimana, ingénieur électromécanicien de formation, mais aussi titulaire d'un Master en droits de l'homme et résolution des conflits et d'un diplôme de spécialisation en droits économiques, sociaux et culturels, va alors dédier le reste de sa vie à la défense et la promotion des droits de l'homme. Flaubert Djabateng, Coordonnateur de Zenü Network, réseau d'OSC basé au Cameroun et ancien cadre du Service Civil pour la Paix, s'exprimant au nom des Bâtisseurs de paix oeuvrant dans la région des Grands Lacs, "regrette la disparition d'un homme passionné par la justice transitionnelle". Et cela se comprend, puisque Pie Ntakarutimana avouait dans le documentaire qui lui est consacré que "nous avons un système judiciaire qui n'est pas capable de répondre aux besoins de justice

aujourd'hui. Les différents gouvernements qui se sont succédé n'ont pas suffisamment investi dans ce secteur. C'est un système qui était considéré comme un des éléments des causes du conflit, car dominé par une seule ethnie. Ce qui a contribué à nourrir le cycle de violence". Et il y ajoute : "Il faut que ceux qui ont commis des crimes puissent s'inquiéter. Il serait superflu de croire qu'ils peuvent tous aller en prison. Mais qu'ils puissent s'inquiéter et parviennent à confesser et reconnaître qu'ils ont posé des actes qui ne sont pas acceptables, des actes inhumains".

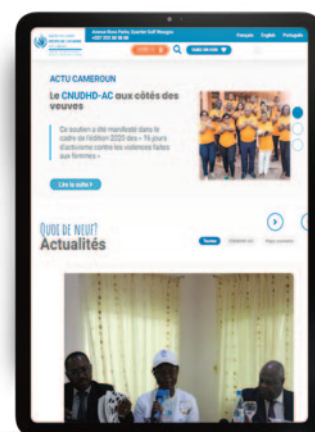
Dès 1996, il est Coordinateur des programmes à l'Institut pour la Promotion de la Démocratie et le Développement Intégré (IPDDI). De 1998 à 2002, il est le président de la Ligue burundaise des droits de l'homme ITEKA. Après un bref passage à CARE Burundi, il rejoint la section burundaise d'ACORD, une Ong britannique qu'il quitte pour devenir de 2004 à 2006 vice-président de la Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH).

En 2007, il est recruté aux Nations Unies, notamment au Haut-Commissariat des Droits de l'Homme où il fera carrière. D'abord au sein du Bureau pays du Burundi (2007-2011) où il a travaillé au sein de l'unité de Justice transitionnelle, puis au Bureau pays du Togo de 2011 à 2015 et enfin au Bureau régional à Yaoundé dès 2015.

Contrairement à ce qu'il regrettait en disant "au lieu de voir l'essentiel, les gens se cantonnent à ce qui est superficiel", tous gardent de lui l'essentiel. Michèle Bachelet, la Haut-Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme, saluant sa mémoire, évoque un collègue qui "a assisté les pays [d'Afrique Centrale] dans la coopération avec les Mécanismes des droits de l'homme et dans l'atteinte de leurs obligations en matière de droits de l'homme". Nouhoum Sangaré, le Représentant Régional pour l'Afrique Centrale du Haut-Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme et Directeur du CNUDHD-AC parle de lui comme "un collègue dont le professionnalisme et la générosité manqueront". Ses collègues du CNUDHD-AC gardent de lui, l'image de "quelqu'un débordant de joie", "un homme impressionnant par son parcours et ses qualités humaines", "un grand orateur", "un collègue d'une grande disponibilité", "le meilleur d'entre nous" ou encore "un grand trésor pour le monde".

Pie Ntakarutimana était marié et père de 3 enfants.

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