ASSEDEL

ACTIVITY REPORT

2021 - 2022

ASSEDEL

Association Européenne
pour la Défense des Droits et des Libertés

2022

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1- SUBMISSIONS

The ASSEDEL submits reports to the Council of Europe, European institutions, and relevant United Nations committees in accordance with its objectives. These reports draw attention to violations by party states of human rights protected in conventions. The ASSEDEL also submits observations as a third party to various international judicial organizations, courts, and mechanisms.

A. Council of Europe

- ASSEDEL Presents Observations to the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights on her Letter to the Chair and Members of the Law Committee of the French Senate

The Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe (CoE), Dunja Mijatovic, has written a letter to the Law Committee of the French Senate urging them to make significant amendments to the General Security Bill to ensure compliance with human rights standards. Mijatovic has also called for the removal of the ban on personal privacy contained in Article 24 of the bill. ASSEDEL has raised concerns about the importance of personal privacy as a fundamental human right and shared its views on the matter with the Commissioner.

https://assedel.org/assedel-presents-observations-to-the-coe-commissioner-for-human-rights-on-her-letter-to-the-chair-and-members-of-the-law-committee-of-the-french-senate/

- ASSEDEL Communicates to Venice Commission of the Council of Europe

In a letter, it is stated that the Law No. 7262 on Preventing Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction is being used by the Turkish government as a tool to suppress advocates of human rights and the rule of law. It is argued that this law gives the government justification to suppress dissent and move away from universal human rights and democratic values.

https://assedel.org/assedel-communicates-to-venice-commission-of-the-council-of-europe/

- Commissioner for human rights visit

The Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe (CoE), Dunja Mijatovic, visited Turkey in July 2019 and published a report on her visit in February 2020. The human rights advocacy group ASSEDEL has requested that Mijatovic call on the Turkish authorities to investigate and stop the ill-treatment and torture of individuals, to stop the detention or arrest of pregnant women, to refrain from violating the right to work and property rights, to refrain from discrimination based on social origin and to repeal emergency decrees, and to end the practice of enforced.

https://assedel.org/assedel-responds-to-the-2020-report-of-commissioner-for-human-rights-coe/

B. European Parliament

- ASSEDEL submits its report on unequal treatment and violation of international law in the context of “Rwanda asylum plan” of UK

ASSEDEL has submitted a report on the UK Home Office's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, which highlights the potential violation of international law on refugee rights by UK officials. The report has been submitted to the permanent representative of the UK in the Council of Europe, the delegation to the EU-UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly, the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, the EP-DROI chair, and members. The report aims to address the importance of human rights law in the UK and its potential violations.

https://assedel.org/assedel-submits-its-report-on-unequal-treatment-and-violation-of-international-law-in-the-context-ofrwanda-asylum-plan-of-uk/

- ASSEDEL submits its report on plastic pollution disaster to the European Commission

ASSEDEL has submitted its first report to the European Commission on the plastic pollution crisis in Turkey. The report highlights the irresponsibility of the Turkish government on this issue and emphasizes the importance of all EU member states taking adequate measures to address it. ASSEDEL hopes that the report will help the European Commission to take necessary action on this issue.

https://assedel.org/assedel-submits-its-report-on-plastic-pollution-disaster-to-the-european-commission/

- Recommendationfor the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combatting violence against women and domestic violence

ASSEDEL has welcomed the adoption of the first European Union legal instrument addressing violence against women and domestic violence and has shared its amendment proposals for the Directive, which was published on March 8, 2022. As there is currently no EU legislation that comprehensively addresses this type of violence, the amendment proposals from ASSEDEL are of particular importance.

https://assedel.org/amendment-proposals-on-combating-violence-against-women-submitted-to-the-european-parliament/

C. United Nations

- ASSEDEL submits Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Report to the UN Human Rights Council for France in the frame of the 43rd Session

ASSEDEL has submitted its second report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the French Republic, which covers two key issues: respect for human rights and the fight against discrimination. The report includes recommendations for the resolution of alleged human rights violations and has been submitted to the UPR process, which involves the periodic review of the human rights records of the 193 United Nations Member States.

https://assedel.org/assedel-submits-universal-periodic-review-upr-to-the-un-human-rights-council-for-france-in-the-frame-of-the-43rd-session/

- Submission by ASSEDEL to the UN Human Rights Council for the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the frame of the 41th session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a process that involves the periodic review of the human rights records of 193 United Nations Member States. ASSEDEL has submitted its first UPR report for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which addresses three key issues: police violence against minorities and peaceful protesters, alleged discrimination and ethnic profiling by the Dutch Tax Authority (Belastingdienst), and alleged discrimination against dual citizens on their applications to convert their driving licenses. The report includes recommendations for the resolution of these alleged human rights violations and has been published on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The Summary of Stakeholders' Submissions for the Netherlands has referenced three points from ASSEDEL's report.

https://assedel.org/submission-by-assedel-to-the-un-human-rights-council-for-the-kingdom-of-the-netherlands-in-the-frame-of-the-41th-session-of-the-universal-periodic-review-upr/

- ASSEDEL submits its report in the frame of country reviews to the 132nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Committee

ASSEDEL has compiled a report on human rights violations. The report highlights four main issues of concern, including the detention of opposition party deputies without parliamentary immunity, cases of enforced disappearances, dismissal of public servants through emergency decree-law, and the arbitrary detention of large groups of people. The report has been formally submitted and has since been included in the UN Treaty Body Database.

https://assedel.org/assedel-submits-its-report-in-the-frame-of-country-reviews-to-the-132nd-session-of-the-united-nations-human-rights-committee/

- Submission to the Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on "Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation following the request of The General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/76/164 (para 12)"

ASSEDEL has submitted proposals to the United Nations General Secretary on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation. These proposals were made in response to a request from the General Assembly in its resolution. The submission covers three key issues: the implementation of recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review process, the role of the media in raising public awareness about human rights and the functions of the UN, and the ability of human rights bodies within the UN system to carry out their mandates.

https://assedel.org/assedel-responded-to-the-call-for-submission-of-the-un-secretary-general/

For other submissions, you can visit our website.

2- EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

ASSEDEL is a human rights advocacy group that has been actively engaged in various initiatives related to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). Among its activities, it provides representation to individual petitioners, drafts petitions on request, requests interim measures in cases of refoulement and participates in meetings with NGOs and litigators at the ECtHR. Additionally, it raises awareness on human rights through social media, and provides legal advice and translation services to facilitate accessibility for legal practitioners and applicants. Furthermore, it reports on the execution of judgments rendered by the ECtHR to contribute to the development of national legislation of Member States.

A. Submissions to the European Court of Human Rights

- Individual petitions

Representation of the applicants by ASSEDEL

As of today, ASSEDEL represents, with the agreement of the President of the 2nd chamber of the Court, a Turkish citizen who was unable to obtain legal assistance in the Şahin v. Turkey case. ASSEDEL will be submitting 4 other cases, concerning the refoulement of asylum seekers including minors, to the European Court of Human Rights in February 2023.

- Drafting of petitions on request

Since the launch of the HRAP (Human Rights Assistance Project), ASSEDEL has been able to share its expertise by drafting 9 complete petitions, which have been submitted either by the applicants or by their lawyers. Similarly, several draft petitions have been reviewed and corrected in terms of admissibility and merit by our volunteers.

For our Human Rights Assistance Project, you can visit our website.

https://assedel.org/assedel-launches-human-rights-assistance-project/

- Request for interim measures in case of refoulement

Two requests for interim measures concerning asylum seekers at risk of refoulement were made to the Court, under Article 39 of its internal rules. Following the safety of the individuals by Greek authorities after the communication of the cases, these requests were closed without the Court issuing a decision.

- Reporting on the execution of judgments rendered by the Court to contribute to the development of national legislation of Member States

ASSEDEL also plans to contribute to the advancement of the execution of the Court's judgments by sharing its observations and recommendations with the Committee of Ministers of the Council responsible for monitoring measures taken by Member States. In this regard, our reports on two cases followed by the Committee of Ministers will be communicated to it in March 2023.

B. NGO meeting held in October

- ASSEDEL participated in ECtHR's Meeting with NGOs and Litigators on 19th and 21st October 2021

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) held bi-annual meetings with litigators and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) online on October 19th and 21st this year. The human rights advocacy group ASSEDEL participated in the meetings with two members and presented a statement supporting the ECtHR and its role in upholding civil liberties and fundamental human rights.

https://assedel.org/assedel-participates-in-ecthrs-meeting-with-ngos-and-litigators-on-19th-and-21st-october-2021/

C. Case Tracking

- Raising awareness on human rights through social media

I. Distribution of a monthly newsletter on the Court

To raise awareness on human rights, ASSEDEL publishes a monthly newsletter on the Court; recent jurisprudence, important cases communicated, etc.

II. Responding to various questions asked by professionals and applicants

When asked about issues related to the Convention law, ASSEDEL provides detailed responses to those interested in order to avoid any potential mistakes in the matter, which would result in the loss of the right to individual petition for victims. So far, ASSEDEL has been able to provide legal advice at least fifty times.

- Translation of judgments and important texts to facilitate accessibility by both legal practitioners and applicants

ASSEDEL translates important judgments of the Court and texts related to the procedure for submission to the Court into languages other than the official languages of the Council of Europe. In this regard, a series of documents and judgments have been translated and then published on the official sites of the Court; HUDOC and echr.coe.int.

3- WEBINARS

Our informative webinars, which offer diverse perspectives on a wide range of current topics, regularly bring together experts and interested parties in the field.

- Webinar : Freedom of expression and its promotion in international and European institutions

The webinar focused on freedom of expression and its promotion within international and European institutions. The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has set up an alert platform at the Council of Europe to bring together media journalists and organizations defending freedom of the press or human rights. The IFJ also proposed the creation of a body to visit certain countries and demand accountability for attacks on journalists. The IFJ advocates for an international convention to strengthen investigation and prosecution mechanisms for attacks on journalists. The European Commission was also discussed as a potential promoter of freedom of expression and how it could further evolve in Brussels or Strasbourg.

https://assedel.org/webinar-freedom-of-expression-and-its-promotion-in-international-and-european-institutions/

- Webinar : The human rights situation in Ukraine since the Russian invasion

This webinar, which featured a presentation by Mr. Yves Doutriaux, a former diplomat at the UN and OSCE, addressed the use of international human rights instruments in response to the situation in Ukraine. Mr. Doutriaux highlighted the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Human Rights Council (HRC) to address human rights violations in Ukraine, including the establishment of an International Commission of Inquiry by the HRC. He also discussed the involvement of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Council of Europe (CoE), as well as the role of universal jurisdiction, Ukrainian courts, civil society organizations, Eurojust, and the OSCE.

https://assedel.org/webinar-the-human-rights-situation-in-ukraine-since-the-russian-invasion/

For other webinars, you can visit our website.

4- OPINION

In order to promote humanistic ideas, the ASSEDEL encourages the publication of opinion and analysis articles in line with its mission and goals. Students, professors, and specialists from different countries can publish their articles. This platform provides access to the opinions of authors from various cultures.

- The EU rule of law conditionality mechanism in the light of recent developments

Burak Nevfel Conkuş writes about the increasing use of "rule of law conditionality" in the European Union's (EU) relationships with its member states and third countries. The EU is founded on the principle of the rule of law, which all member states must respect in order for the various EU mechanisms that rely on mutual trust to function properly. The Lisbon Treaty established a legal framework for the rule of law and allows for the imposition of political sanctions on member states that breach EU values, including the rule of law. The new "Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation" allows the European Commission to suspend a member state's access to the EU budget if the rule of law is breached in a way that affects the financial management of the budget or the protection of the financial interests of the EU. This regulation gives more concrete content to the principle of the rule of law and strengthens its binding force.

https://assedel.org/the-eu-rule-of-law-conditionality-mechanism-in-the-light-of-recent-developments/

- Possible negative impacts of the use of Artificial Intelligence on data protection based rights

Written by Kerem Gülenç, this text discusses the potential risks to privacy and data protection posed by the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and algorithms in data collection and processing. Gülenç highlights concerns such as the generation of new data, profiling and repurposing of data, and intrusive processing through automated data processing and cloud storage. There is also a risk that information collected through AI could be used to manipulate elections. In conclusion, Gülenç emphasizes the importance of considering the potential impact on basic human rights when using AI in data processing.

https://assedel.org/possible-negative-impacts-of-the-use-of-artificial-intelligence-on-data-protection-based-rights/

For other opinions, you can visit our website.

5- OTHER KEY PROJECTS

- Legal Aid Service for Migrants

ASSEDEL has launched an assistance project to defend the rights of vulnerable migrants who have encountered difficulties in the exercise of their rights in France. The project will provide advice and guidance to these individuals and, if necessary, will utilize appropriate legal remedies to defend their rights before French administrative authorities such as the Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides and the Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration. The goal of the project is to ensure that the rights of vulnerable migrants are protected.

https://assedel.org/legal-aid-service-for-migrants/

- ASSEDEL launches Women Empowerment Project

ASSEDEL's "Woman Empowerment" project is offering a mentoring program for immigrant women with career goals who live in France, the USA, or Germany and have moved to these countries in the past five years. There are no profession/field limitations for the program and it is open to individuals of any age who are interested in advancing their career and learning and development. The mentoring program will be primarily conducted online and is free of charge. It will be available in English, German, French, and Turkish and the duration of the mentoring process will vary based on individual needs and situations.

https://assedel.org/assedel-launches-women-empowerment-project/

6- OTHER KEY POINTS

ASSEDEL is a recognized European human rights advocacy group that focuses on protecting civil liberties and fundamental freedoms. The organization is officially registered with the European Parliament, holds status as a public interest organization in France, and has been approved to host volunteers for the Service Civique. It actively participates in the General Assembly of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe and works closely with the European Parliament and its committees. ASSEDEL also monitors and reports on issues such as plastic pollution and publishes articles on human rights and humanitarian issues.

- ASSEDEL accredited by the European Parliament

ASSEDEL is a European association that has been officially recognized and registered by the European Parliament. The organization works to defend human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a focus on issues such as women's empowerment, human rights in candidate countries for EU membership, the right to education for refugee children, the revision of treaties, and the protection of personal privacy. It also monitors and reports on issues such as plastic pollution and submits reports to international organizations, informs the public, and publishes opinion articles on human rights violations and humanitarian issues such as immigration, poverty, and famine. The organization has signed the Transparency Register Code of Conduct and works on issues related to communication, education and training, employment and social affairs, the environment, the European neighborhood policy, humanitarian aid and civil protection, justice and fundamental rights, migration and asylum, and youth. ASSEDEL works closely with the European Parliament and its committees, including the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, the Subcommittee on Human Rights, the Committee on Culture and Education, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.

- ASSEDEL was granted “Intérêt général” status

ASSEDEL has obtained the status of a public interest organization in France, which allows it to issue tax receipts to its donors and members so that they can benefit from a tax reduction. To be eligible for this status, an organization must have a philanthropic, educational, scientific, social, humanitarian, sports, family, cultural, or heritage preservation purpose, or contribute to the protection of the natural environment. ASSEDEL obtained this status on June 21, 2022.

- ASSEDEL approved to host volunteers for the Service Civique

ASSEDEL, has been approved for a three-year period to host volunteers for the Service Civique, a voluntary commitment to a mission of public interest for a duration of 6 to 12 months, averaging 8 months, working a minimum of 24 hours per week. The program is open to young people aged 16 to 25 and can be carried out in the following nine priority areas for the nation: solidarity, health, education for all, culture and leisure, sports, environment, memory and citizenship, international development and humanitarian action, and emergency intervention. Eligible organizations to host volunteers include non-profit organizations under French law and public legal entities such as government services, public establishments, local authorities, associations, and foundations, subject to approval by the Service Civique Agency or its territorial delegates.

- ASSEDEL attended at the General Assembly of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

ASSEDEL was pleased to attend the General Assembly of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe as an observer on October 5/6. The event, held in the meeting room 2 & 3 of the Palais de l’Europe in Strasbourg, provided a valuable opportunity for ASSEDEL to engage with and contribute to the discussions.

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Send us an email for more information!

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