

CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND DEFENCE RIGHTS IN FRANCE

This leaflet covers:

- Information about FTI
- Definitions of key legal terms
- Criminal proceedings and defence rights in France
- Useful links

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About Fair Trials International

Since 1992 Fair Trial International has worked for the better protection of fair trial rights and defended the rights of people facing criminal charges in a country other than their own. Our vision is a world where every person's right to a fair trial is respected, whatever their nationality, wherever they are accused.

Fair Trials International was established to help people arrested outside their own country to defend their right to a fair trial. Every year we help hundreds of people and their families to navigate a foreign legal system by offering practical advice, including contacts of local lawyers; guidance on key issues encountered by people arrested abroad; and basic information on different legal systems and local sources of support. As a charity, we do not charge for any of the assistance that we provide.

We believe that respect for fundamental rights and the rule of law are the hallmarks of a just society and that the right to a fair trial is at the heart of this. Sadly too many shocking cases of injustice demonstrate how, time and again, this most basic human right is being abused. We fight against injustice by lobbying for the legal reforms needed to ensure that the right to a fair trial is respected in practice. Working with our clients and international networks, we also campaign for changes to criminal justice laws which are being abused and overused.

To find out more about how FTI can assist you, please contact our legal team (contact details on the back cover).

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DEFINITIONS OF KEY LEGAL TERMS

Accusatorial or Adversarial System (*systeme accusatoire*): A system in which a prosecutor and the lawyer representing the accused present their case before an impartial judge. This system is followed in some countries such as the UK and the USA. Unlike some European countries (such as France), judges are expected to be neutral and do not take an active role in investigating cases.

Appeal (*appel*): An opportunity to dispute a decision made at trial (either on guilt or on sentence) by asking a higher court to review it. This can result in the decision being overturned or changed.

Bail (*contrôle judiciaire*): The temporary release from police custody or from prison of a person accused of a crime and awaiting trial.

Bar Association (*ordre des avocats* or *barreau*): An organisation whose role is to represent lawyers and help people in their dealings with lawyers.

Charge/Indictment (*accusations*): A statement (often in writing) accusing a person of carrying out an offence. In France, such information is often given orally.

Consulate (*consulat*): The section of an embassy whose task is to assist its citizens.

Court of Appeal (*cour d'appel*): A court that is competent to hear appeals (i.e. challenges) made to decisions of the lower courts.

Court of First Instance: A lower court where a trial is initially heard.

Embassy (*ambassade*): The office of a government official who resides in a foreign country and represents his/her government's interests.

European Court of Human Rights (*Cour européenne des droits de l'homme*): The Court is based in Strasbourg, France, and hears human rights cases against the 47 countries which make up the Council of Europe (which is different from the European Union).

Fast track proceedings or summary proceedings (*comparution immédiate*): this is the name given to proceedings that take place very immediately after arrest by the police and police custody. These proceedings are usually only used in simple and straightforward cases.

File (*dossier*): name given to your case or case file by your lawyer.

Inquisitorial System: A system in which the judge plays an active role in conducting the investigations and seeking the truth. This system is followed in France and many other European countries (but not in the UK). Unlike in adversarial systems such as the UK and the USA, the role of the defence lawyer is to ensure that his/her client's rights are respected, but it is not to investigate the case. An important part of the trial can be based on written submissions.

Investigative Judge (*juge d'instruction*): A judge who performs an examining role and actively steers the course of a trial.

Judge (*juge*): A person with authority to hear and decide on cases in a court of law.

Lawyer (*avocat*): A person whose profession is to give legal advice and assistance to clients and represent them in court or in other legal matters.

Liberty and custody judge (*juge des libertés et de la détention*): judge in charge of deciding whether a person must be released or placed in detention pending trial.

Judgment (*jugement*): A decision on a case provided by a judge or jury in a court of law.

Legal Aid (*aide juridictionnelle*): Financial assistance provided to a person who needs a lawyer and who cannot afford to pay for one.

Offences (*infractions*): There are three categories of offences in France: felonies (*crimes*) which are very serious offences such as murder or armed robbery; misdemeanours (*delits*) which are less serious offences such as theft, fraud, bribery etc. and petty crimes (*contraventions*) which are minor offences such as speeding.

Plea Bargain (*comparution sur reconnaissance préalable de culpabilité*): A procedure which allows the defendant to plead guilty in exchange for a less severe sentence. In France it is only possible in limited circumstances.

Police Custody (*garde à vue*): Detention of a suspect by the police after arrest.

Power of Attorney (*procuration*): Written authorisation provided by one person to another, allowing them to make decisions on their behalf. This can include matters of business or private affairs.

Pre-trial Detention (*detention provisoire*): Detention in police custody or in prison during the investigations (and often during the trial itself as well), which happens before the decision on guilt or innocence is made by the court.

Public Prosecutor (*Procureur de la République*): A judge who conducts a case against a person who is accused of a crime

Remand: The act of sending a person, accused of a crime, into police custody.

Sentence (*peine*): The punishment assigned to a person convicted of a crime as fixed by a court of law.

Victim (*victime or partie civile*)

Warrant (*mandat*): A document issued by a legal or government official authorising the police to make an arrest, search premises, or carry out some other action relating to the administration of justice.

Witness (*témoign*)

INFORMATION ON CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND DEFENCE RIGHTS IN FRANCE

We have prepared these notes with the assistance of local criminal lawyers, who tried to describe how things happen in practice, i.e. in the real world. Even within one country, however, practice can vary a lot from one place to another and it is therefore possible that your experience will sometimes differ from the descriptions below. This document does not constitute legal advice and only provides general information. If you need advice in relation to your specific case, or if you are concerned about a possible violation of your rights, you should discuss this with your local lawyer.

1. LEGAL SYSTEM

Q1. Where do the laws of France apply?

The laws of France apply within the whole territory of the French Republic including French Overseas Departments and Territories and French Polynesia.

French criminal law is applicable to any offence punishable under French law if at least part of the offence took place in France regardless of the offender's nationality.

Please note that French criminal law can also apply to some crimes and misdemeanours committed outside France by non-French citizens against French citizens.

Specific conditions have to be met:

- (1) The French victim needs to complain, or an official complaint needs to be made by the state in which the offence took place; and
- (2) The French prosecutor needs to agree to prosecute the suspect.

Q2. What kind of legal system is it?

The French legal system is a civil law system which is very different from common law countries like England and Wales, the US and Australia. The criminal process is “inquisitorial”, meaning that, in many cases (except for minor offences), an investigative judge plays a role in the conduct of the investigations and is responsible for preparing the case for trial. The case is then passed onto a different judge, who is responsible for hearing the case. This is very different to a common law country where the trial is a contest between the prosecution and defence (who present their own version of events) and where the judge acts as an independent referee and plays no role in investigating the case.

2. ARREST AND INVESTIGATION

I. What are my rights upon arrest?

(a) Right to information:

Q3. Will the police inform me of my rights? Will this be done orally or in writing?

Yes, the police will inform you of your rights. They will do it orally and in writing.

The writing will consist of a police report in French stating your rights and stating that you were informed of them and that you understood them. You will be required to sign this sheet (known as the Notification of Rights Report) and if you refuse to do so, it will be mentioned by the police officers on the police report.

In practice, you will be immediately informed of your rights when remanded in custody. However, if you are in a state of intoxication at the time of arrest, the notification of your rights may be postponed until the effects of the alcohol/drugs have worn off.

In a nutshell, the rights you will be notified of are:

1. The right to inform a relative and/or your employer (unless this would undermine the conduct of the investigations);
2. The right to be examined by a doctor (this could, in practice, take some time);
3. The right to be assisted by a lawyer during the hearings; including a 30-minute private consultation at the beginning of your time in custody and at each 24 hour renewal;
4. The right to answer the questions you are asked, or to remain silent.

Q4. Do I have a right to be informed of the allegations against me?

Yes, you have a right to be informed of the allegations against you. The police officer must inform you of:

- (i) The fact that you have been remanded into police custody (and how long this will last); and
- (ii) The nature and the presumed date of the offence that you are suspected to have committed, or to have attempted to commit.

The public prosecutor has the right to amend the charges. Should this happen, you would be immediately notified by a police officer in a language that you understand (with the assistance of a translator / interpreter if needed).

However, if you are in a state of intoxication at the time of arrest, such information may be given to you at a later stage in the process.

(b) Right to inform people:

Q5. Do I have a right to have the consulate informed of my arrest?

Yes, foreign nationals arrested in France have the right to have the police notify their consular authorities of the arrest. You need to request it.

Q6. Do I have a right to inform my family of the arrest?

Yes, if you wish to inform a family member/your employer of your arrest, you can give the police the contact details of a family member so they can call/notify them for you.

You will not be allowed a call to all of your family. Therefore, you should choose carefully which family member to call.

However, the public prosecutor may delay the notification of your family, if s/he believes this is necessary, for the proper conduct of the investigation (e.g. if there is a risk that they are accomplices or will inform accomplices of your arrest).

Q7. Do I have a right to a lawyer?

Yes, any individual who is in custody has the right to be assisted by a lawyer. You can request a lawyer at any time when under police custody and you will benefit from your lawyer's assistance during interrogations or confrontations.

However, if needed by the investigation, the public prosecutor has the right to postpone the assistance of a lawyer for up to 12 hours, if requested by the police officer (usually this has to be necessary for the good conduct of the investigations – i.e. because it is urgent to collect evidence - or to prevent another criminal offence from taking place).

If offences are punishable by five or more years' imprisonment, the public prosecutor may delay the assistance of a lawyer by up to 24 hours, but only with the authorisation of the liberty and custody judge (*juge des libertés et de la détention*).

This decision cannot be challenged as such, but in some circumstances if the decision was wrongly taken (e.g.

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the offence was only punishable by less than five years' imprisonment), then statements given to the police without a lawyer will not be admissible at trial.

Q8. Do I have a right to an interpreter?

If you do not understand French, you will be provided with an interpreter. If necessary, a form can be handed out to you in a language you understand to ensure you are aware of your rights whilst the police are waiting for the translator/interpreter to arrive.

Interpreters will be present during police interviews. You may be asked to sign a statement in French, which the interpreter will translate for you orally. You do not have a right to have this statement translated in writing in your mother tongue. If you are not sure that this statement is accurate, ask your lawyer to check its content. You can also ask your lawyer whether you should refuse to sign it.

Q9. Do I have to talk to the police or can I remain silent during police interrogation? Will it work against me if I am silent?

You have the right to remain silent during interrogation but this right should be exercised carefully so as not to be harmful to your case. Discuss with your lawyer whether or not you wish to exercise this right.

Q10. When will I know about the case against me?

As mentioned above you will be notified immediately of the suspicions or accusations that led to your arrest and

detention. Should the accusations against you change whilst you are in custody, the police officers have a duty to notify you of the new accusations immediately.

Your lawyer can ask for access to a report stating that you were notified of your rights (*proces-verbal de garde-a-vue*: this is the document you were asked to sign when you were informed of your rights by the police), your medical certificate in case you have asked to consult a doctor, as well as all written reports of statements you made to the police. However, the police officer has no obligation to allow your lawyer to see your file and in practice some police officers routinely deny this.

If the prosecutor decides to postpone your right to a lawyer, then neither you nor your lawyer will be able to see the file during these 12 or 24 hours.

If your case is directly brought before a court for trial by the prosecutor (*citation directe du Parquet*), you will have full access to the file and a right to a copy its contents.

If your case is brought before an investigative judge for further examination, your lawyer will be granted the right to access the whole file, but you will not. The general rule is that your lawyer will request a copy of the file, which you will then be able to consult at his office or in any place where the confidentiality of the discussion between a client and his/her lawyer is secure.

You do not have a right to a copy of the contents of your file unless you have requested and obtained the investigative judge's authorisation. It is prohibited to communicate any part of an investigation file and this is punishable by a fine of up to €3750. There is an exception to this rule when the communication of the file is needed in order for you to obtain a statement from an expert to support your defence.

Q11. How long will I be kept in prison before my trial starts?

After arrest, you can be kept in detention in a police cell. This is called police custody (*garde a vue*). The general rule is that you cannot remain in police custody for more than 24 hours from the time of your arrest. However, police custody can last another 24 hours in specific circumstances, especially if the offence is punishable by at least one year's imprisonment, or if the investigation is deemed to require the extra time. The police needs to have the consent of the prosecutor (in the vast majority of cases, the prosecutor will consent). In certain cases involving terrorism, drug trafficking or organised crime, the duration of the police custody can last up to 96 hours.

At the end of police custody a judge (*judge des libertes et de la detention*) will decide whether to order your detention (in a prison) prior to your trial.

In instances where police custody is over and a judge decides to order that you are kept in jail until your trial,

the general rule is that your pre-trial detention (*détention provisoire*) should not exceed a reasonable amount of time considering the gravity of the case and the complexity of the necessary investigations.

As a general rule, pre-trial detention for minor offences cannot exceed four months. However, depending on the suspected person's criminal record, personality, and the status and nature of the offence, such detention can be extended to up to one year.

Pre-trial detention can be extended to up to two years for offences committed partly outside of national territory or for organised crime, drug trafficking, terrorism, conspiracy, and other serious crimes.

When a serious offence is committed, the general rule is one year of pre-trial detention but when all the possible exceptions to the general rule apply, it can amount to a maximum of four years and eight months.

3. LEGAL REPRESENTATION

For general information on why and how to appoint a local lawyer, please refer to FTI's "Arrested in Another Country?" leaflet.

Q12. How can I find a lawyer?

French lawyers are members of local bar associations or "bars".

The list of lawyers for each local bar is available in all municipalities or district courts.

Most local bars also provide such lists on the internet. See FTI's useful links for contact details of the bars.

Alternatively, your consulate may be able to provide you with the names of lawyers speaking your language. FTI may also be able to assist.

Q13. What is the role of my lawyer? Will s/he investigate the case?

Your lawyer will provide you with legal assistance and will present your case in court based on the evidence gathered by the prosecutor or by the investigative judge. In court, s/he has the right to call witnesses.

In principle, the power to investigate a case belongs to the public prosecutor and investigative judge. This means that the lawyer's power to investigate the case is limited, especially when the case is only under the authority of the prosecutor. If the prosecutor is not doing his/her job, it is sometimes possible to start a civil action against him/her and ask that an investigative judge be appointed.

When the case is in the hands of an investigative judge, your lawyer (and similarly, the lawyer of the victim) has broader powers to request investigation, interviews, confrontations (the act of bringing together the suspect and the victim for a discussion), etc.

Q14. I cannot afford to pay for a private lawyer, what should I do? (Is there legal aid? How should I apply? What are the criteria to be eligible? What is covered by legal aid?)

If you cannot afford to pay for a lawyer, one can be appointed for you by the court. Subject to certain conditions you can benefit from full or partial legal aid. You will need to prove that you have a low or no income.

With respect to criminal proceedings, any person charged, accused or convicted may benefit from legal aid, even if such person is not a French national or resident.

To benefit from legal aid and assistance, you must contact the local bar association. If you are placed under police custody and you do not know any lawyer to contact for assistance but want the assistance of a lawyer, the police will call the local bar association to have a lawyer appointed for that purpose.

Q15. I am unhappy with my lawyer: How can I change lawyer? How can I complain against my lawyer?

A good first step is to speak to your lawyer about your concerns. If that does not resolve the issue, you can complain about your lawyer and seek to have another lawyer appointed.

You can complain about your lawyer before the president of the relevant bar association (le *bâtonnier*)

by way of a simple letter explaining the reasons for your complaint.

If you are receiving legal aid, you need to request the appointment of a new lawyer to the bar association. When you have the name of that new lawyer and s/he has agreed to take over your case, s/he will contact your previous lawyer to receive your file from his/her colleague. It is recommended that you call your previous lawyer to let him/her know that you have appointed new representation for your case.

4. PRE-TRIAL MATTERS

4.1 Pre-trial matters: Detention

The information given below is specific to France. For general information and tips about how to obtain your release prior to your trial, please refer to our note on “Release pending trial”.

Q16. Will I have to stay in prison until my trial starts?

You may have to stay in prison until your trial starts. Although there is a presumption that people should be given bail (i.e. should be released pending your trial), in many cases defendants, particularly when they are foreign nationals, are kept in custody.

Reasons for keeping people in custody are to prevent them from: 1) failing to attend their trial (i.e. absconding); 2) tampering evidence or interfering with witnesses; 3)

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committing another offence or 4) being in danger of others or themselves.

Note that the time spent in prison prior to your trial will be deducted from your overall sentence.

Q17. Are there alternatives to detention pending trial?

Yes, there is an alternative to detention. It is called bail (*contrôle judiciaire*) and means that you are released from custody.

If you are released pending trial, you may be required to submit to certain obligations/restrictions. These obligations are set by a judge (either the investigative judge and/or the liberty and custody judge) in order to fulfil the investigation's requirements and in order to ensure your presence before the judge and/or the court for your hearing or when summoned.

Q18. What conditions can be imposed?

Bail (*contrôle judiciaire*) may be accompanied by one or more restrictions, including:

- Agreeing to give notification of any travel plans;
- Answering summons;
- Being placed under house arrest with, or without, tagging (*bracelet électronique*);
- Being prohibited from visiting certain places (e.g. the neighbourhood where the victim lives);

- Appearing regularly in a place designated by the judge (e.g. a local police station);
- Refraining from driving;
- Not meeting or making contact with certain people (victims, co-defendants, etc.);
- Submitting to any examination, treatment or care; including hospitalisation, particularly for detoxification;
- Not engaging in certain activities either professional or social; or
- Providing evidence of contribution to family expenses, or the payment of a pension fund.

Q19. How and when can I apply for release from detention prior to my trial?

You can apply for bail at any time of the investigation after you were charged. You will have to promise to attend trial and convince the judge not to place you in pre-trial detention.

Applications for bail can be made by you or your lawyer to the judge hearing your case or conducting the investigation. If the judge denies you bail, you can appeal against his/her decision.

Judges will look at the merits of the case when considering your bail application. The bail decision can be reviewed at any time and as often as requested.

Q20. Can I go back to my home country if I am released pending trial?

Yes, unless the judge decides to retain your passport in order to make sure you will not leave the country or s/he asks you to stay at a given address.

Q21. What will happen if I breach the conditions of my release?

If you breach your bail conditions, bail will be revoked and you may be remanded in prison. However, this does not constitute a separate criminal offence.

Q22. Do I need a lawyer to apply for release pending trial?

No, but it is recommended that you have a lawyer present because there are legal considerations which might affect the conditions of your bail.

4.2. Pre-trial matters: Timing

Q23. How long before my case goes to trial?

This may vary depending on the complexity of the case and the time needed to complete the investigation. It can be anywhere from one day in the case of fast track proceedings, which provide for an immediate appearance at court (*comparution immediate*), to several years if a serious crime has been perpetrated. It also varies a lot from court to court and in different parts of France.

France has been recently condemned by the European Court of Human Rights because of the delays in its criminal justice system.

Q24. There are always delays with my case, does that mean my lawyer is doing a bad job?

No. Delays happen at each stage of the proceedings and courts are known to be overwhelmed, which causes cases to be fairly slow to reach a conclusion. This is not necessarily the result of poor quality work from your lawyer. Sometimes, your lawyer will even ask for the postponement of some hearings so s/he will have more time to prepare your defence.

4.3. Pre-trials matters: Pleading guilty

Q25. Can I plead guilty? What are the consequences of pleading guilty?

Yes, you can plead guilty to offences that are punished by a fine and up to a maximum of five years in prison. In this procedure, the assistance of a lawyer is compulsory.

This procedure (*comparution sur reconnaissance prealable de culpabilite*) is not applicable if you are younger than 18 years of age or in the case of some offences, such as violation of press laws, manslaughter, political misdemeanours and offences provided by specific laws.

This procedure can only be offered at the prosecutor's own discretion or at your request or the request of your lawyer.

In such a case, the prosecutor may suggest a plea bargain. For offences punishable by imprisonment, the duration of proposed imprisonment in the plea bargain cannot exceed one year or half the punishable sentence (whichever is the lower). If the plea bargain is accepted by the accused (with the assistance of his/her lawyer), it has to be approved by a judge.

If the procedure fails, it has no consequences on the case, which will be heard in court in the normal way. No mention of an attempted guilty plea will remain in the file and the prosecutor is not allowed to mention it to the court during trial.

5. THE TRIAL

Q26. What happens at the trial?

The hearing can take place before:

The police court (*tribunal de police*) or jurisdiction of proximity (*jurisdiction de proximité*), which deals with petty offences;

The correctional court (*tribunal correctionnel*) which deals with misdemeanours;

The criminal court (*cour d'assises*) which deals with felonies (e.g. murder).

What happens at trial before each court may differ, but in outline (and in order) the trial will be organised as followed:

The court will ask the accused a few questions on his/her status (identity, record, etc.);

The court will summarise the charges against the accused;

The court will question the accused on the facts. You can remain silent;

Witnesses will be called and examined;

The court will ask the prosecution, the defendant and, if present, the victim if they have further questions and the prosecution has an opportunity to recommend a punishment for the accused.

Finally, the parties will each argue their case in the following order:

- (i) The victim's lawyer (see below more information about the role of the victim in criminal proceedings);
- (ii) The public prosecutor;
- (iii) The defence lawyer.

Once this procedure has been followed, the court will ask the accused if s/he has anything to add to what his/her lawyer said.

A judgement will then be made.

Q27. Do I have to be present?

In principle, yes and it is recommended. However you can, in practice, be represented by your lawyer only, unless the court specifically requests your presence.

As a general rule your absence does not prevent the court from trying the case. If you have not asked for a postponement and you are not represented by a lawyer who asks for this postponement on your behalf, the court is unlikely to postpone and will try the case in your absence.

Q28. What does fast track proceedings mean? What are the pros and cons of fast track proceedings? Can I apply for it?

Fast-track proceedings (called *comparutions immediates*) cannot be requested by the defendant. They are chosen by the public prosecutor; he can only use them in straightforward cases. They result in your case being heard immediately at the end of the police custody (*garde a vue*).

It usually gives you very little time to prepare your defence; however you can request some time (usually a few days or weeks) to better prepare your defence.

Fast track proceedings can have a serious impact on the outcome of your trial and you should seek legal advice urgently if the prosecutor decides that your case should be fast-tracked.

Q29. Can I ask for the trial to take place in my home country?

No.

Q30. Is there a jury?

There only are jurors at the criminal court (cour d' assise), which deals with felonies. There are three judges and nine or 12 jurors (who are lay people chosen from residents who are allowed to vote, i.e. who are over 18 years old).

Q31. Can my lawyer call and cross-examine witnesses?

Yes, your lawyer can call witnesses. If a witness is not attending court willingly, your lawyer can ask the judge to summon the witness (i.e. to force him/her to come to court) to give evidence at your trial. However, this is at the discretion of the judge, you have no right to summon witnesses.

Your lawyer can also cross-examine witnesses. However, since such cross-examination is supervised by the court, the court may set limits to your lawyer's cross-examination.

Q32. I don't speak the language of the court, do I have a right to an interpreter? Is it free?

Yes, you have a right to an interpreter who will be appointed by the court. The assistance of an interpreter is free.

Q33. Will the written evidence be translated for me?

Only the documents referred to during trial will be translated for you, orally. You do not have a right to have the whole file translated into your own language.

Q34. Will the interpreter also assist me if I need to talk to my lawyer?

Yes.

Q35. Why is the victim taking part in the trial?

Victims are often called as witnesses. If the alleged offence has caused damages to the victim, the criminal court can order damages to be paid to the victim without the need for a separate legal case on the civil courts. For this reason, victims often decide to take an active (although limited) part in the trial, but they have no obligation to do so.

Q36. Will I be informed of the decision of the court on the day of the trial?

It depends on the complexity of the case. If the case is simple, the court can choose to deliver its decision on the day of trial.

However, courts can choose to postpone the delivery of their decisions to a later date, which they will notify the parties of orally at the end of your trial.

Q37. Can I receive a copy of the judgment in my mother tongue?

In principle, no. However, your lawyer may provide you with a translation if s/he speaks your language.

Q38. I was tried in my absence and was not informed of this, what can I do?

If you have not been informed of your trial, the court will issue a default judgment (which cannot be executed until you are made aware of it and which gives you right to a re-trial). However, if you gave an incorrect address or if you moved without informing the court, the summons/citation will be considered as though it had been properly served and the trial will take place in your absence.

As long as the summons is properly served or considered so, trials in your absence will not give you a right to a re-trial. Nevertheless, you do not lose your right to appeal against the decision, provided you respect the deadline.

Note that most of the time, if you are absent but you are represented by a lawyer, then the trial is considered to have taken place in your presence.

6. APPEALS

Q39. I am not happy with the decision, can I appeal against it?

Yes, you can appeal against your sentence and conviction.

Q40. How can I appeal?

You should always seek advice from your lawyer if you want to make an appeal. In theory, you can make an appeal without the assistance of a lawyer. However, where possible, it is advisable to get legal advice because it is a very technical matter.

If you are detained, your application to appeal must be lodged through a statement filed with the prison authorities (the person in charge is called the *greffe de la prison*). Alternatively, your lawyer can file an appeal on your behalf with the registrar of the court (*greffe du tribunal*). The time limits run from the time the service of the judgement is passed:

- 10 days, if you reside in continental France;
- one month if you reside outside continental France (i.e. abroad or in the French territories).

Q41. Do I need to pay my lawyer more money if there is an appeal?

Yes, your lawyer can ask for more money if there is an appeal (unless s/he initially agreed that his/her fees would cover the appeal).

If you are entitled to legal aid, it will cover the cost of your appeal.

Q42. What is the time frame for the appeal to take place?

It is difficult to predict the time frame for an appeal. Generally, an appeal will take place quickly if the accused is detained in jail and will happen within a year if s/he is free.

Q43. Could things get worse during the appeal?

Yes, you can be given a longer sentence on appeal, but only if the prosecutor lodged an appeal.

If only the victim appeals, your sentence cannot be increased, but the damages you have to pay to the victim can be increased.

Q44. If I am not convicted, can the prosecution appeal?

Yes, the prosecutor can appeal and, if s/he does so, your acquittal can be overturned, or your sentence increased.

The victim can also appeal against an acquittal, but if s/he is the only one to appeal (i.e. the prosecutor does not appeal), then the only thing that s/he can obtain is a declaration by the appeal court that, although you are acquitted, you have committed the offence and the appeal court may order that you pay damages to the victim.

7. PRISON CONDITIONS

Q45. What are the prison conditions like?

Prison conditions vary greatly from one prison to another.

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture recently denounced inhuman and degrading detention conditions of French prisons <http://www.cpt.coe.int/fr/>.

France was also condemned by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) for its detention conditions.

Information specific to the prison where you are/will be detained may be obtained from your lawyer or your consulate.

Q46. Do I have rights as a prisoner? Where can I find out about my rights?

A guide to prisoners' rights should be given to you when you arrive in prison. These include:

- The right to health;
- The right to a lawyer;
- The right to work/education;
- The right to a private and family life;
- The right to information;
- The right to safety;

- The right to freedom of expression and religion; and
- The right to contact family and legal representatives.

The guide should be explained to you orally. Free legal advice should be available to you in every prison.

Q47. What can I do if my rights are violated?

You can personally complain to the prison warden and may ask to be heard by the person in charge of inspecting the prison (usually a judge). It is also possible to bring a complaint before the administrative authority that defends people's rights against public administrations (*Défenseur des Droits*). For its contact details, please refer to FTI's useful contacts.

Q48. Where can I get assistance regarding my welfare issues? Regarding abuse and mistreatment?

Your lawyer should be able to assist you. Some local organisations may also be able to assist. Please check FTI's useful contact pages for more information.

8. POST-TRIAL MATTERS

Q49. Can I get my sentence reduced?

Fine sentences may be reduced by 20 per cent (up to a maximum discount of €1500 or approximately £1310) if paid within the month following the decision.

A sentencing judge (*Juge d'application des peines*) may reduce your sentence as a result of your good behaviour and take into consideration the time you have already served. This usually happens after you have served half of your sentence, but re-offenders have to serve two-thirds of their sentence.

For information about when exactly you may be entitled to an early release, you should ask your lawyer.

Note that time served in pre-trial detention will be deducted from your overall sentence.

Q50. What would help me get an early release?

Prison sentences may be reduced for inmates who show serious signs of social readjustment/good behaviour and who have paid compensation to those claiming against them.

Q51. I have been sentenced to pay a fine, what will happen if I don't pay it?

A total or partial default payment may lead to your imprisonment. Please note that if you have limited financial resources, you may be able to pay a fine in instalments. You need to request this.

Q52. Can I ask for a transfer to my home country?

Yes, you can ask for a transfer if France and your home country have signed a treaty dealing with this matter. If there is no such treaty a transfer may still be possible but will be more difficult to obtain. Before you can transfer you must renounce your right to any further

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appeals. For further information you can request FTI's "Note of Advice on Prisoner Transfers".

Q53. I have exhausted all legal remedies, is it still possible to get my case reviewed?

Yes, there is a review mechanism but it is very rarely used.

It is subject to very strict conditions i.e. new facts, which were unknown to the court on the day of trial, must have been discovered that raise doubts as to your guilt. In practice, it is very rare that a case actually gets reviewed.

Revision may be applied for by the Minister of Justice, by the convicted person, or by his/her legal representative. The application for revision is sent to a special commission composed of five Court of Cassation judges (i.e. judges from the French Supreme Court). If the judges consider it necessary, they will call for further investigations and refer any application they consider admissible to the criminal division of the Court of Cassation (which rules as a revision court). This is the court of last resort.

You can also take your case to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) after you have exhausted all your domestic remedies (i.e. all legal avenues available in France). The ECtHR cannot overturn your conviction but can recommend that you receive a retrial or that you are offered damages.

Q54. I have exhausted all legal remedies; can I apply for a pardon?

Yes, the French President may grant pardon if:

1. All legal remedies are exhausted; and
2. The conviction is final and binding.

However, pardons are only granted under very exceptional circumstances.

Q55. Can I be expelled instead of serving my sentence?

No.

Q56. Is there a risk that I will be deported after serving my sentence?

Yes, in some situations you may be automatically escorted to the border at the end of your prison sentence. You should speak to your lawyer about this.

USEFUL LINKS

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
LAW GOVERNING BODIES		
<p>Le Conseil National des Barreaux</p> <p><i>(French Bar Association)</i></p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>Le Conseil National des Barreaux (The National Bar Council) represents & governs all lawyers practicing in France.</p> <p>It overviews the provision of free legal assistance (legal aid) and helps people in their dealings with lawyers.</p> <p><u>Additional information:</u></p> <p>Regional bar councils can be searched by region through the website (contacts page)</p> <p>The website provides links to Accès au Droit et à la Justice (Access to Law and Justice), a service providing free legal advice to anyone in need, and to Aide juridictionnelle (Legal Aid), as well as further information generally.</p> <p><u>Languages:</u></p> <p>French. However, it is possible to search for a barrister that speaks your language via the regional bar councils.</p>	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <p>http://cnb.avocat.fr/</p> <p>E: cnb@cnb.avocat.fr</p> <p>T: +33 (0)1 53 30 85 60</p> <p>Legal Aid / Bureau d'Aide Juridictionnelle: +33 (0)1 44 32 76 61</p> <p>F : +33 (0)1 53 30 85 61</p> <p>Conseil National des Barreaux, 22, rue de Londres, 75009 Paris</p> <p>Legal Aid: Bureau d'Aide Juridictionnelle, 1 quai de Corse, 75004Paris.</p> <p>Legal Aid office: 9am-12pm.</p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
<p>Ordre des Avocats de Paris</p> <p>(Paris Bar Association)</p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>To represent all lawyers practicing in Paris, and to deal with any complaints made against them.</p> <p>When a detainee requires a lawyer, the police may contact the Bar Association to request one.</p> <p><u>Cost:</u></p> <p>Free / Legal aid is dependent on income</p> <p><u>Additional information:</u></p> <p>The website has access to Accès au Droit et à la Justice (Access to Law and Justice), a service providing free legal advice to anyone in need.</p> <p>The website also has gives information about legal aid. Legal aid is available for civil as well as criminal actions but the procedure for applying is different.</p> <p><u>Languages:</u></p> <p>French</p>	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <p>www.avocatparis.org</p> <p>E : delegationgenerale@avocatparis.org</p> <p>T: Legal Aid/Bureau d'Aide Juridictionnelle: +33(0)1 44 32 76 61</p> <p>Monsieur le Bâtonnier Ordre des Avocats de Paris, Service Accès au Droit et à la Justice 11, place Dauphine 75053 Paris Cedex 01</p> <p>T: 01 80 27 19 20</p> <p>Legal Aid: Bureau d'Aide Juridictionnelle, 1 quai de Corse, 75004Paris.</p> <p><u>Opening hours:</u></p> <p>Bar Association: normal working hours / for detainees in police custody: 24/7</p> <p>Legal Aid office: 9am-12pm.</p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
<p>Le Défenseur des droits</p> <p><i>(Defender of Rights)</i></p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>Le Défenseur des droits (the Defender of Rights) is an independent constitutional authority that enforces the rights and freedoms of any person. S/he is nominated by the President of the Republic. The Defender of Rights replaces the Ombudsman, HALDE (Anti-discrimination and racism body) and the CNDS (National ethics committee on security) as of 1 May 2011.</p> <p>It aims to protect childrens and human rights, protect against discrimination and is also aimed at policing any legal/ethical impropriety by those persons involved in the security of the country, e.g. the police, prison officers, customs agents, private security agencies, etc.</p> <p><u>Cost:</u></p> <p>Free</p> <p><u>Additional information:</u></p> <p>If writing to the Defender of Rights by email, you must make sure you send all supporting documents.</p> <p><u>Languages:</u></p> <p>Website in French.</p>	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <p>www.defenseurdesdroits.fr (Preliminary site only)</p> <p>E: No general email address: contact them electronically using the contact form on the website: http://www.defenseurdesdroits.fr/contact</p> <p>T: +33 (0)9 69 39 00 00</p> <p>Le Défenseur des droits, 7, rue Saint-Florentin, 75008 Paris</p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
NGOs		
- LEGAL ADVICE		
Conseil departemental de l'accès au droit de paris	<u>Mandate</u> This organisation specialises in providing Pro-bono Legal advice to clients.	<u>Website:</u> http://www.cdad-paris.justice.fr/ 4, bd du Palais 75001 Paris
SOS Avocats	<u>Mandate:</u> A telephone service manned by lawyers to answer general legal questions. <u>Criteria to receive assistance:</u> None <u>Cost:</u> Phone calls are charged at €0.15/minute. Otherwise, it is a free service. <u>Languages:</u> French (Although it is possible that the lawyers manning the phones may speak other languages, this cannot be guaranteed)	<u>Website:</u> http://www.avocatparis.org/acces-au-droit-et-a-la-justice-2/consultations-gratuites/125-particulier/acces-au-droit-et-a-la-justice/316.html T: 0 825 39 33 00 (Call from France) <u>Opening hours:</u> 7pm – 11.30pm, Monday to Friday

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
- HUMAN RIGHTS		
<p>La Croix rouge française</p> <p><i>(French Red Cross)</i></p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>The Red Cross is an international humanitarian group. It campaigns in health, social and medical sectors. In relation to prisons, it provides support to prisoners in detention (prison and immigration centres), when they leave, and their families at all times.</p> <p><u>Criteria to receive assistance:</u></p> <p>Persons detained in French prisons, immigration centres and their families. Includes French territories.</p> <p><u>Cost:</u></p> <p>Free</p> <p><u>Languages:</u></p> <p>Website in French.</p>	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <p>www.croix-rouge.fr/</p> <p><u>Email address:</u></p> <p>No general email address – contact them electronically using the contact form on the website: http://www.croix-rouge.fr/Accueil/Contact</p> <p>T: +33 (0)1 44 43 11 00</p> <p>F: +33 (0)1 44 43 11 01</p> <p>Croix-Rouge française 98 rue Didot, 75694 Paris Cedex 14</p>
<p>Observatoire international des prisons</p> <p><i>(International Observers of Prisons)</i></p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>OIP is an independent organisation with consultative status with the UN. It campaigns for the fundamental rights of prisoners including better conditions in prisons. It also works to ensure prisoners are aware of their rights.</p> <p><u>Criteria to receive assistance:</u></p> <p>Prisoner</p>	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <p>www.oip.org</p> <p><u>Email address:</u></p> <p>contact@oip.org</p> <p>OIP Section Française 7 bis rue RIQUET 75019 Paris</p> <p>T: +33 (0) 1 44 52 87</p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
	<p><u>Cost:</u> Free</p> <p><u>Additional information:</u> OIP provides its publications, such as its Prisoner's Guide, for free to prisoners. Information for prisoners is also available on the website and you can sign up to their newsletter for free.</p> <p><u>Languages:</u> French</p>	<p>90</p> <p>F: +33 (0) 1 44 52 88 09</p> <p>(from 3pm to 6pm)</p>
<p>Ligue des Droits de l'Homme</p> <p>(French Human Rights League)</p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u> Independent organisation promoting and campaigning for human rights and equality.</p> <p><u>Languages:</u> French.</p>	<p><u>Website:</u> www.ldh-france.org/</p> <p>E: ldh@ldh-france.org or through the website</p> <p>T: +33 (0)1 56 55 51 00</p> <p>F: +33 (0)1 42 55 51 21</p> <p>Ligue des droits de l'Homme, 138 rue Marcadet, 75018 Paris</p> <p><u>Opening hours:</u> None given.</p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
<p>Gisti, groupe d'information et du soutien des immigrés.</p> <p>La Cimade L'humanité passe par l'autre</p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>Both of these organisations are concerned with Alien Rights.</p>	<p><u>Websites:</u></p> <p>http://www.gisti.org/index.php</p> <p>http://www.cimade.org/</p> <p><u>Address (Gisti)</u></p> <p>3 Villa Marcès</p> <p>75011 Paris</p> <p>T: +33 (0)1 43 14 60 66 (from Monday to Friday : 3pm – 6pm)</p> <p><u>Address (Cimade)</u></p> <p>64 rue Clisson</p> <p>75013 Paris</p> <p>T: (Cimade) +33 (0)1 44 18 60 50</p> <p>F: (Cimade) +33 (0)1 45 56 08 59</p>
- GENERAL ADVICE FOR PRISONERS		
<p>Association Nationale des Visiteurs de Prison (A.N.V.P.)</p> <p><i>(The Association of Prison Visitors)</i></p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>A charity which organises a team of volunteers to travel to French prisons to provide moral/technical support to the prisoners / those accused of crimes. Their goal is to provide assistance to prisoners and their families during their time in prison and</p>	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <p>www.anvp.org</p> <p>E: accueil@anvp.org</p> <p>can contact them through the website: http://www.anvp.org/5</p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
	<p>to assist prisoners with their rehabilitation into society when released.</p> <p><u>Criteria to receive assistance:</u></p> <p>Persons accused of crimes in France / detained in French prisons</p> <p><u>Cost:</u></p> <p>Free</p> <p><u>Languages:</u></p> <p>Website in French</p>	<p>8_p_8665/contactez-nous.html</p> <p>T: +33 (0)1 55 33 51 25</p> <p>F: +33 (0) 9 55 23 09 38</p> <p>ANVP, 1 bis, rue du Paradis, 75010 Paris</p> <p><u>Opening hours:</u></p> <p>Telephone service available from 2pm – 6pm, Tuesday to Friday</p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
<p>F.A.R.A.P.E.J.</p> <p>Fédération d'Associations pour Réfléchir et Agir sur la Prison et la Justice</p> <p><i>(Association of Prison and Justice action groups)</i></p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>A federation of charitable and volunteer organisations working together on issues concerning prisons. There are 60 organisations across France, made up of approximately 3000 volunteers and 300 employees.</p> <p>FARAPEJ helps trains volunteers in its member organisations and publishes a magazine (Prison Justice). It also aims to intervene in public debate on issues concerning prisons and justice.</p> <p><u>Cost:</u></p> <p>Varies</p> <p><u>Languages:</u></p> <p>French</p>	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <p>www.farapej.fr/</p> <p>E: farapej@farapej.fr</p> <p>T: +33 (0)1 55 25 23 75</p> <p>F: +33 (0)1 55 25 23 76</p> <p>FARAPEJ, 68 rue de la Folie Régnault, 75011 Paris</p>
<p>F.N.A.R.S.</p> <p>Fédération nationale des associations d'accueil et de réinsertion sociale</p> <p><i>(Association of social welfare groups)</i></p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>Federation bringing together 870 organisations and public bodies to assist the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners and other disadvantaged persons. The federation is concerned with all aspects of the social sector and includes organisations concerned with housing, employment, training and health.</p> <p><u>Cost:</u></p> <p>Varies</p> <p><u>Additional information:</u></p>	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <p>www.fnars.org</p> <p>E: fnars@fnars.org</p> <p>T : +33 (0)1 48 01 82 00</p> <p>F : +33 (0)1 47 70 27 02</p> <p>76 rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis, 75010 Paris</p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
	<p>Although it's head office is in Paris, the FNARS has 22 offices all over France.</p> <p><u>Languages:</u></p> <p>French.</p>	
<p>Secours Catholique</p> <p><i>(Catholic Relief)</i></p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>Secours Catholique has 84 regional teams specialising in helping and supporting prisoners and their families. It is particularly active in highlighting and trying to counteract the poverty that affects almost all the prisoners and prisons in France. It also provides financial assistance and is committed to defending the dignity and rights of prisoners.</p> <p><u>Criteria to receive assistance:</u></p> <p>Prisoners, their families and others suffering from poverty.</p> <p><u>Cost:</u></p> <p>Free</p> <p><u>Additional information:</u></p> <p>Has offices in various regions in France and around the world.</p> <p>You can find your local branch through the website: http://www.secours-catholique.org/divers/contactez-nous,059.html</p>	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <p>www.secours-catholique.org</p> <p><u>Email address:</u></p> <p>No general email address – contact can be made electronically through the website: http://www.secours-catholique.org/divers/contactez-nous,059.html</p> <p>T : +33 (0)1 45 49 73 00</p> <p>From Monday to Friday: 9am – 6pm</p> <p>Saturday: 9am – 12.30pm and 2pm – 5pm</p> <p>Secours Catholique, Siège national, 106 rue du Bac, 75341 Paris Cedex 07</p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
	<u>Languages:</u> French. Website partially available in English.	
Association pour la communication sur les prisons et incarcération en Europe. Observatoire International Des Prisons	<u>Mandate :</u> Both of these organisations involve Prisoners Rights. The French Section of the International Prison Observatory promotes dignity and fundamental rights of prisoners. The organisation bases its action on the provisions of national law and international human rights which provides that everyone has the right , in every place the recognition of his legal status and that no person shall subject to penalties or cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment.	<u>Websites:</u> http://prison.eu.org/ http://www.oip.org Association pour la communication sur les prisons et incarcération en Europe: BAN PUBLIC 12 Villa Laugier 75017 Paris T: +33 (0) 6 62 85 62 97
Compagnie des Experts Traducteurs et Interprets em Exercise pres la cour d'appel de paris.	<u>Mandate :</u> Every person has the right to translation. This organisation can be contacted for translation assistance.	<u>Website:</u> http://www.ceticap.com E: ceticap@gmail.com
- PRISONERS' WELFARE		
Auxilia	<u>Mandate:</u> Charitable organisation offering education (knowledge or skills training)	<u>Website:</u> www.auxilia-

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
	<p>to prisoners and certain others in difficult situations in order to prepare them for their reintegration into society. CLIP aims to give prisoners a teaching tool that allows them to aid their own recovery, as well as providing moral support.</p> <p><u>Criteria to receive assistance:</u> Prisoners, and those in difficult personal situations</p> <p><u>Cost:</u> Free</p> <p><u>Additional information:</u> The most relevant aspect to those incarcerated is Auxilia's distance learning programme: Auxilia EAD: Enseignement à Distance</p> <p><u>Languages:</u> French</p>	<p>formation.org</p> <p>E: auxiliab@club-internet.fr</p> <p>T: +33 (0)1 46 04 56 78</p> <p>F: +33 (0)1 46 04 18 22</p> <p>Auxilia EAD: Enseignement à Distance 102, rue d'Aguesseau 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt</p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
<p>CLIP</p> <p>Initiation et formation des détenus à l'informatique</p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>Organisation providing computer training to prisoners with a view to aiding their rehabilitation and reintroduction to society.</p> <p><u>Criteria to receive assistance:</u></p> <p>Prisoner</p> <p><u>Cost:</u></p> <p>Free</p> <p><u>Languages:</u></p> <p>Website in French</p>	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <p>www.assoclip.sitego.fr</p> <p>E:</p> <p>http://assoclip.sitego.fr/formulaire-general-permettant-de-nous-contacter-.html</p> <p>T: +33 (0)1 45 65 45 31</p> <p>F: +33 (0)1 45 88 94 62</p> <p>CLIP, 12-14 rue Charles Fourier, 75013 Paris</p>
<p>Le Courrier de Bovet</p> <p>Association nationale de correspondance avec les détenus</p> <p>(Prison Letters)</p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>A charitable association that provides moral support to prisoners by providing penpals. It aims to help prisoners re-establish a link to the outside world in order to provide them with moral support and to prepare them for their reintegration into society.</p> <p><u>Criteria to receive assistance:</u></p> <p>Prisoner</p> <p><u>Cost:</u></p> <p>Free</p>	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <p>www.associationlecourrierdebovet.perso.neuf.fr</p> <p>E:</p> <p>secretariat@courrierdebovet.org</p> <p>Foreign prisoners:</p> <p>detenusetrangers@courrierdebovet.org</p> <p>Can also contact via the website:</p> <p>http://associationlecourrierdebovet.perso.neuf.fr/contact.html</p> <p>T: +33 (0)1 40 67 11</p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
	<p><u>Additional information:</u></p> <p>The organisation serves as a post box in order to allow volunteers to retain their privacy/anonymity.</p> <p>Volunteers must be at least 22 years old.</p> <p><u>Languages:</u></p> <p>French</p> <p>The organisation also actively seeks volunteers who speak other languages. Prisoners can currently correspond with a volunteer in German, English, Spanish, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Dutch, Czech, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovenian, and Swedish. (Albanian, Hungarian, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese were, but are no longer, available).</p>	<p>98</p> <p>Foreign prisoners: +33 (0)6 84 15 76 45</p> <p>F: +33 (0)1 40 67 11 37</p> <p>For prisoners: Le Courrier de Bovet, BP 70039, 75721 Paris CEDEX 15</p> <p><u>Opening hours:</u></p> <p>2pm – 5pm, Monday to Friday</p>
<p>G.E.N.E.P.I.</p> <p>Groupement étudiant national d'enseignement aux personnes incarcérées</p> <p><i>(National Student Association for the education of prisoners)</i></p>	<p><u>Mandate:</u></p> <p>GENEPI is a charity made up of higher-education students whose aim is to assist the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners into society by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - teaching in prisons; and - raising public awareness of the problems facing prisoners. <p><u>Criteria to receive assistance:</u></p> <p>Prisoner in a French prison</p>	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <p>www.genepi.fr</p> <p>E: president@genepi.fr</p> <p>T: 01 45 88 37 00</p> <p>F: 01 45 88 96 87</p> <p>12, rue Charles Fourier, 75013 Paris</p> <p><u>Opening hours:</u></p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
	<u>Cost:</u> Free <u>Languages:</u> French.	None given
- PRISONERS' FAMILIES		
UFRAMA Union nationale des fédérations régionales des associations de maisons d'accueil de familles et proches de personnes incarcérées <i>(National federation of regional non-profit organisations with the aim of developing initiatives in order to help maintain families ties with prisoners.)</i>	<u>Mandate:</u> National federation of regional non-profit organisations with the aim of developing initiatives in order to help maintain families ties with prisoners. The UFRAMA's purpose is to help maintain family ties by creating a network to share experiences between the organisations. UFRAMA also identifies issues affecting the rights of prisoners' families and liaises with other groups concerned with prisoners and their families. <u>Criteria to receive assistance:</u> Family member in prison <u>Cost:</u> Varies <u>Languages:</u> French	<u>Website:</u> http://uframa.listoo.biz/ E: uframa@wanadoo.fr T: +33 (0)5 46 92 11 89 F: +33 (0)5 46 92 11 89 8, Bridge Passage Amilion, 17100 Saintes

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If you think that an important question is not covered in this fact sheet, please let us know.

FAIR TRIALS INTERNATIONAL

**Working for a world where every person's right to a
fair trial is respected, whatever their nationality,
wherever they are accused**

THANK YOU

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