



Geneva, 12 September 2023

Object: Call for input on the Decriminalization of homelessness and extreme poverty - FIACAT’s research work

Dear Special Rapporteurs,

Following your call for input for your joint report on the Decriminalization of homelessness and extreme poverty, FIACAT would like to share the attached documents.

FIACAT is an international nongovernmental organization with ECOSOC status since 1995 which fights against torture and the death penalty. However, in the course of its work with its member organization in Côte d’Ivoire, FIACAT has led various research works on the issue of detention in Côte d’Ivoire. You will find in those research works elements that you might find useful in that they can be related to the issue of the criminalization of homelessness and extreme poverty without addressing it per se.

In particular, certain sections of the following documents (only in French) might be relevant:

1. « [Présumé.e innocent.e ? Étude sur la détention préventive en Côte d’Ivoire](#) »

This study, co-written by CERDAP², FIACAT and ACAT CI within the framework of a project fighting against unjustified pre-trial detention funded by the European Union delegation in Côte d’Ivoire, focuses on the systemic use of pre-trial detention in Côte d’Ivoire. It draws up a socio-economic profile of people placed in pre-trial detention, reviews their judicial and prison journey in law and in practice, and analyses the normative framework of pre-trial detention in Côte d’Ivoire.

The following sections might be of particular interest for your report:

- Part 1 “Socio-economic profiling of pre-trial detainees”, Chapter 1 “The use of pre-trial detention as a symptom of hidden inequalities in the criminal justice system.”, 5. “Social Position” and 6. “Cross-referencing socio-demographic and judicial profiles”: p.30 – 41
 - Part 2 “Judicial and prison journey of persons in pretrial detention”, Chapter 2 “A criminal situation largely misunderstood by defendants”: p. 59 - 74
 - Part 2 “Judicial and prison journey of persons in pretrial detention”, Chapter 3 “Access to rights and justice conditional on an unclear support for defendants”: p.75 -83
2. « [L’Etat ivoirien à l’épreuve de la détention préventive: regards croisés sur l’internationalisation des réformes pénales](#) »

This publication brings together different voices - from academics to human rights activists from ACAT-CI and FIACAT - to highlight the issues at stake in criminal reform and the rights of detainees in Côte d’Ivoire and more generally in sub-Saharan Africa.

3. « [Vivre l'enfer\[mement\] : Regard sur la détention des femmes et des mineur.es en Côte d'Ivoire](#) »

Co-ordinated by Bénédicte Fischer of the CERDAP², Lionel Grassy and Paul Koffi Kouadio, this report brings together different testimonies from the prison environment and pays particular attention to the situation of women and minors, whose condition is made invisible by the production of global data due to the fact that they are in minority. The writing of this report is part of the final phase of the implementation of the project " Assisting Pre-trial Detainees and Promoting the Social Reintegration of Women and Minors in Côte d'Ivoire Prisons (APRES CI) ", carried out since 2014 and supported by the European Union Delegation in Côte d'Ivoire.

The following sections might be of particular interest for your report:

- Foreword by Commissioner Maria Teresa Manuela, Special Rapporteur on prisons, conditions of detention and policing in Africa and member of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa (CPTA);
- Chapter 2 "Criminal profiles", Section 2.2 "Offences to be decriminalised";
- Chapter 3 "Socio-economic profiles".

4. [Côte d'Ivoire : être femme ou enfant en prison](#)

In this interview by Prison Insider, two members from ACAT CI answer questions regarding the situation of women and children and detention and their socio-economic profiles.

We hope you will find this information useful and remain at your disposal for any further information.

Yours faithfully,

Lionel Grassy
Advocacy Director

Marie Salphati
Representative to the United Nations