

# Niamey report

June 10<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> 2012

ARD: Issoufou Hamidou Ba and Kenneth A. Balfelt

Purpose: To commit prison authorities to the project and work toward a sustainable project.

We had a meeting with the following:

- 1) Preparation Meeting: Agadez met with the local authorities the local Prosecutor authorities (Procureur), President of the Tribunal /Senior Judge, prison director and PSF
- 2) Ministry of Justice by Secrétaire General, Director of the Cabinet, Direct Rice General Prisons and Prosecutor, President of the Tribunal, the prison director, PSF
- 3) Follow-up Meeting with Head of department (Directricen) of the prison system, prison director and PSF
- 4) Info meeting with PAJED
- 5) Info Meeting with UNICEF
- 6) Meeting with the Minister of Justice

## Latest news from PSF

Lily is back in prison. Lily is one of our "good stories", as he has started a successful moped mechanic business after he was released. But he broke into a house where there were cars from Libya. One of the cars had a suitcase which he believed contained money. He would steal it, but a guard caught him. At the same time, he had five motorcycles he had repaired, which he simply lacked to get money for!

PSF tried to prevent that he went to prison again. If the owners of the place he broke into, would withdraw the charge, he could be released, said the prosecutor. The family he broke into would only do this if PSF signed a declaration stating that if Lily harassed the family or broke in again, the PSF would be responsible. PSF was not able to take this responsibility.

Does this require some mental/psychological support, in addition to academic instruction, so that the former prisoners can change their mindset?

There were only two inmates who wanted to get mobile repair training?

## **1) Pre-meeting with the Procureur, President of the Tribunal, the prison director and PSF**

June 11<sup>th</sup> 2012

The Ministry of Justice

Issoufou and Kenneth met with our partners from the authorities in Agadez with Alhassane and Mahamat from PSF.

PAJED / EU: The prosecutor have spoken to them and they can support aspects of the teaching, both of teachers and inmates. But they suggest that we apply through the Ministry of Justice, as they are in partnership with them.

UNICEF: They oppose the deployment of minors in prisons. Therefore; it is unlikely that they will support our project.

Juvenile Court has the opportunity to give the young community service. It has never been activated in Agadez – because the judge are not able to send those convicted anywhere but in prison - but there could be other options! Thus, we could search UNICEF to start up a program for the training of these young people outside prison.

Program to help ex-rebels: Some are in prison and these we could explore whether we can get funding for teaching in prison. They may need other courses than those we have, for example electricity, plumbing, etc. that we are not necessarily qualified to teach in. But we can work with these programs in Agadez as a provider of education for them. There is a challenge in terms of facilities.

Regarding Lily who has fallen back and destroyed our recurrence rate and a good story: Missing link in our work? They suggest that we visit released, also the functioning, monthly along with a social worker. They are specially trained to follow up on such a person and feel if something is wrong.

It is very difficult to get relapsed numbers as we want. They measure recidivism by looking at whether to commit the crime together or similar within five years. They have no central registry just as it is easy and common to change identity. Therefore, contact with all 38 prisons do not pay.

Topics for the meeting with the Ministry of Justice:

Communication on the project

Rehabilitate the criminal-free life

Reduce injuries in society caused by crime  
Reduce the cost of police, judiciary and penitentiary  
Driving growth in society through education

Short and long term sustainability  
Help with fundraising / partnership  
Get ideas for possible funds  
Take over costs

Renovate workshops and build an office, so we avoid having to pay rent.

KB Idea: Private sponsors in CSR spirit, for example mining company Ariba,

## **2) Meeting with Ministry of Justice**

Secrétaire General, Director of the Cabinet, Direct Rice General Prisons and  
Procureur, President of the Tribunal, the prison director, PSF  
June 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 9:00

### **Agenda**

Define overall vision  
Short and long term commitment towards sustainability  
Orders for products producerat in the prison  
ARD meets authorities  
Go through Manuel des Procedures  
PSF / ARD visit prison in Niamey elsewhere they have a program  
To make PSF a more official partner with the Ministry of Justice

The Ministry wished that we had contacted them before, because then they could have included support for PSF's activities in partnership agreements already in early 2012.

The activities that PSF performs are some which they already would wish to do, so they are very happy that we are doing it and they will support us in the future.

They are creating a new department of rehabilitation (Reinsersion). We offered support for this feature. They have a program with PAJED (EU-supported collaboration on the development of the entire criminal justice system) for establishing and renovating garages. Ministry of selecting Prisons they will renovate and would like to choose Agadez.

We offered to share our experiences with them.

The mood was generally very positive about our project and support without reservation.

### **3) Meeting Direct Rice Generale**

Direct Rice, prison director, PSF, ARD  
June 13<sup>th</sup> 2012

#### **Agenda**

Follow-up on yesterday's meeting

Create miljø for fruitful cooperation

A work plan

To identify fundraising and the points from the meeting to work on the

Identify potential funds and low (cooperative) plan for fundraising

Present ARD / PSF (with a focus on volunteer work)

It was agreed to make a Protocol d'Accord (formal agreement) to regulate cooperation between PSF and the Ministry and local cooperation between PSF and prison off. prosecutor and the court.

PSF sends a report every three months to the Ministry. This is followed up by a feedback from the ministry, if necessary. per. phone. We suggested that both can comment on the report, but also provide ideas and strategies from the Ministry of PSF, which can inspire the development of the project locally.

Directrice proposes an annual meeting in January, because that is where they hold meetings with funds for the year's effort.

(Meeting with PAJED) They will negotiate the use of funds in July 2012 - only then it can trigger funds.

The Ministry of Justice is creating three departments: For administration of Prisons, rehabilitation / reintegration (reinsertation) and safety.

We have a desire to upgrade teaching in terms of teacher (and possibly more. Better) and thus classrooms. This is possible in PEJED (EU fund cooperation for prisons), says Directricen.

The Ministry is very limited with respect to generate resources to develop ideas and programs, so that's why our ideas and programs seem very welcome to them.

The Ministry would like to participate in the evaluation of our project after it ends. This means that the evaluation will be "internalized" in the ministry and a part of their experience gathering. It is very positive - and another opportunity for integration of our project in the Ministry.

For rehabilitation, they have a very hard time doing what is necessary. They have three prisons in Niamey, which in 2005 should have been transformed into rehabilitate prisons. They should be equipped with all equipment, teacher and premises. But nothing has happened yet, in fact they are worse than some of the other prisons.

Our use of local authority cooperation: school uniforms and school desks produced in prison, so that we get the materials covered. The directricen is very open minded concerning this part.

Cooperation with other ministries? Education, sports, health. Directricen will take these contacts in collaboration with PSF.

#### **4) Info meeting with PAJED II**

PAJED II is the second time they make a 5-year cooperation with the EU to reform the criminal justice system. It's everything from education, new prisons, renovating courthouses and prisons, etc.

In the first phase (PAJED I) paid coordinator money for a lot of judges, who then had to do things they had applied for a grant. But when he asked for receipts for the completed, there were plenty who did not deliver them. It gave him serious problems with the EU - and it was very close to that they did not support the second part.

The coordinator told about the areas they support and that we should apply for these funds through cooperation with the Ministry - like we had agreed to do with the directricen.

They will negotiate with the Ministry on the use of funds in July 2012 - only then it can trigger funds.

#### **5) Info Meeting with UNICEF**

BEBAT Salmey, Child protection specialist  
UNICEF office in Niamey

She was very positive towards the idea of giving the judge for minors

opportunity to implement other sanctions end to send the 13-18 year olds in prison.

She said that it is interesting to look at how the program could be extended to all prisons in Niger. That our project serves as a prototype.

There are two ways to get support: Through the Ministry of Justice, which already cooperates with, or by searching directly. The last option is very demanding, slow and with very little possibility to gain funds.

## **6) Meeting with Ministry of Justice**

Morou Amadou  
The airport

The Minister of Justice, which had just landed after a week in Morocco, had already been informed of our meeting with the ministry of his cabinet chief (director of the cabinet), who was present at the meeting. He knew Alhassane from a visit to Copenhagen, from before he became a minister, and has visited the project in Agadez, at a time when Alhassane was away.

He supports our project in full. In practical terms, he suggested that we inform him about when we send all contract applications and Cooperation for directricen, he will follow up with the directrice.

He asked why we only work in Agadez. He suggested that together we looked at the opportunity to spread our rehabilitation program to other prisons in Niger.