

2019



TOURNONS LA PAGE
Pour l'alternance démocratique
en Afrique

Annual report



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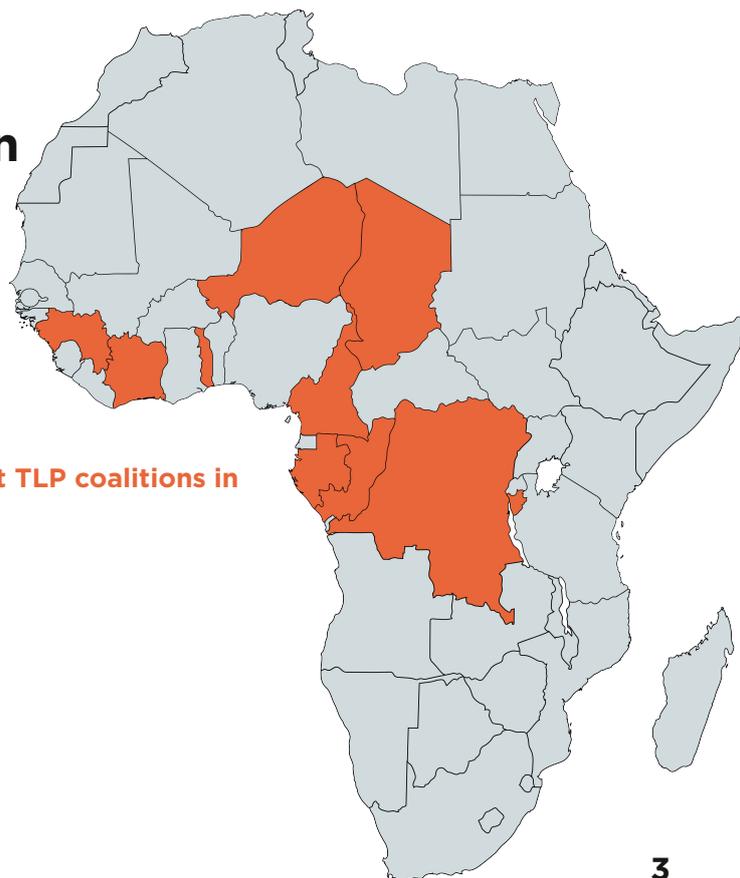
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Map of the different TLP coalitions in Africa

We've come a long way !

« 2019 was a year of determination and development. With the awarding of the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic, the movement's first International General Assembly and the launch of two new coalitions, 2019 has been an intense and decisive year.

Arrests in Guinea or Chad, threats in Côte d'Ivoire and DRC and violations of the rights of assembly and demonstration in Niger and Togo have hit the Tournons La Page (TLP) movement, whose action increasingly disturbs the autocrats of the continent.

It is in these difficult times that unity and solidarity, cardinal values of our movement, manifest themselves and prove our strength! TLP has grown a lot this year and has been able to defend the right to freely choose its leaders, in Africa and elsewhere, through many political but also social and cultural initiatives.

At the end of 2018, TLP-Niger's work against corruption and in the defense of human rights was recognized with an important award: the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic. This award is all the more emblematic as it was awarded on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. The start of 2019 was subsequently defined by the celebration - by both TLP Niger members and the whole TLP family - of an award that is necessary to ensure the protection of activists. Indeed, at the time of writing this editorial, 3 TLP-Niger members, including the Prize winner and national coordinator, Maïkoul Zodi, are unfairly detained for denouncing a corruption scandal.

Niger was once again in the spotlight during the first International General Assembly, held in July 2019 in Niamey, attended by nearly 60 participants from 12 countries. Furthermore, the opening ceremony was attended by Nigerien policy decision-makers with varying levels of seniority, journalists and representatives of the Chanceries. TLP had won its bet. For the first time, our movement held an international meeting in one of the countries we operate in, which is also the one where the repression has been the heaviest in the last few months. Tournons La Page has strongly reaffirmed that despite all the attacks of which its members are victims, our collective determination and the just cause that we support will triumph sooner or later.

TLP's biggest advocacy victory of 2019 is being a partner of the High Level Summit on Term Limitation, organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Niamey. During this summit, in the presence of representatives from Congo, Burundi, Guinea and Niger, President Mahamadou ISSOUFOU reaffirmed his desire to leave power after his second term, thus respecting the Nigerien Constitution. Given the restriction of civic space observed in Niger since 2014, this announcement is a great victory for TLP-Niger and more broadly for the movement as a whole. During this summit, TLP also worked to ensure that a mediation of former West African heads of state could be carried out in the Republic of Guinea, in order to work towards the respect of the constitution by President Alpha CONDÉ.

Finally, TLP continues to grow and build a vast network of African activists and organizations. In full protest against a possible 3rd term by Alpha CONDÉ, the TLP-Guinea coalition was officially launched on September 7, 2019. A month later, in October 2019, the TLP-Togo coalition was created.

Finally, the end of 2019 marks a major turning point for TLP: the independence of its international coordination. Since 2014, Secours Catholique Caritas France has indeed coordinated the movement for the purposes of efficiency, protection and influence. After 5 years of structuring, the year 2020 will begin under the sign of the movement's independence with the creation of an international organisation Tournons La Page and the establishment of improved governance.

This exponential growth would never have been possible without the courage of our activists and without the support of our historical (Secours Catholique, Misereor) and recent (Voice and NDI) partners. A big thank you to them all. »»



Marc Ona ESSANGUI
President of TLP



Laurent DUARTE
International coordinator of TLP

2019 IN FIGURES

11 coalitions: **Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Gabon, Guinea, Niger, Togo and Europe**

252 member organisations in **Africa** and in **Europe**

2 new coalitions: **Guinea** and **Togo**

1 new transversal projet: **Protection**, financed by **Voice**

40 press articles directly mentioning « **Tournons La Page** »

14 745 followers on **social networks**

24 press releases written by **coalitions**

350 000€ budget

INTRODUCTION

Since 2014, Tournons La Page has brought together associations and collectives from Africa and Europe to promote democratic change on the African continent. By combining awareness raising actions, citizen mobilization and advocacy, Tournons La Page has become a recognized player in the defense of civil and political rights in French-speaking Africa. These 5 years of activities have allowed Tournons La Page to build itself in motion, bringing together, in October 2019, 252 members in 10 African countries (Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Gabon, Guinea, Niger, and Togo).

The Tournons La Page movement continued its empowerment process with the establishment of governance at several levels: international, national and local. TLP held its first International General Assembly in Niamey in July 2019 and welcomed two new coalitions, Togo and Guinea, two additional actors within the international steering committee.

International coordination has also been strengthened by the hiring of an International Solidarity Volunteer occupying the role of protection officer (program funded by Voice in collaboration with the AEDH association). An intern also came to strengthen the international coordination of TLP from January to July 2019, in particular to support the preparation of the International General Assembly.

Secours Catholique Caritas France (SCCF), TLP's coordinating organization, has undergone many changes since late 2018 and early 2019 with the arrival of a new General Delegate (Vincent DESTIVAL), a new international director (Benoît-Xavier LORIDON) and a new Africa manager (Violaine DORY). All are invested in monitoring the TLP project.

This report is a summary of the activities carried out within the 10 national coalitions of Tournons La Page, as well as the international coordination for the year 2019. It was therefore co-written by the international coordination team and the national teams in Africa. TLP's protection officer, based in Niamey, also contributed to its final drafting and the translation into English, supported by volunteers. In addition to the feedback from each country, the report is based on press releases, articles or analyses from the international press or partner International NGOs.

This report was produced in the spring of 2020.

CONTEXTUAL CHANGES

During 2019, the major changes in context, among TLP's 10 countries of action, are to be found in Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Guinea:

Niger and Chad

According to the 2020 report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) and other human rights organizations, the human rights situation in the Sahel deteriorated in 2019, with hundreds of civilians killed by ethnic self-defense groups, national armed forces or by terrorist groups. Many regions of Niger are in a state of emergency and in the grip of daily violence, making it difficult for many members of the movement to get into the field. Additionally, in the north of Chad, several localities were placed in a state of emergency in 2019, following the incursion of rebel forces from Libya. The east of the country was also not spared by this exceptional measure after violent intercommunal clashes in Ouaddai.

Cameroon

In Cameroon, the North-West and South-West regions, known as English-speaking areas have been in the throes of a violent civil war since 2018. Throughout 2019, armed groups and government forces committed human rights violations across these regions. Freedoms of expression, association and assembly have been steadily curtailed since President Paul BIYA, 86, won his seventh election in October 2018. President Paul BIYA's credibility has been widely questioned by a low turnout, and strong suspicions of fraud. According to Human Rights Watch, the Islamist armed group Boko Haram has launched more than 100 attacks in the country's Far North region since January 2019, killing more than 100 civilians. The conflict between government forces and Boko Haram has resulted in the deaths of thousands of Cameroonians and the displacement of more than 270,000 others since 2014, leading to an increase in the number of self-defense groups.

Guinea

While the opposition and civil society (primarily members of TLP-Guinea) rejected the proposed constitutional revision allowing President Alpha CONDÉ to run for a potential third term in 2020, the government cracked down on the freedoms of assembly and expression by banning several street demonstrations. About twenty demonstrators were killed by the Defense and Security Forces (DFS) between October and December 2019 and six activists (including 3 members of TLP-Guinea) mobilized against the proposed new Constitution were also imprisoned in October. Furthermore, several journalists have been arrested and detained for defamation and criticism of the current government.

OBJECTIVES

For the year 2019, Tournons La Page had three main objectives:

- Extend the TLP alliance to new players both in Africa and in Europe
- Strengthen the alliance and its members in order to create sustainability in action
- Mobilize members in order to build and maintain the conditions for a true democracy on the African continent

Tournons La Page has structured and mobilized a lot during this year. A membership census has been drawn up at 254 member associations in 10 countries. Through the creation of two new national coalitions (Togo and Guinea), TLP has broadened its citizen alliance and mobilized European and African members on many joint activities (see below). Above all, TLP had its first International General Assembly in July 2019, bringing together 60 participants from 12 countries, which helped strengthen the conditions for joint action in favor of democracy. Each coalition has set up National General Assemblies to re-mobilize all members, to specify the conditions for membership in TLP and finally to conduct activity planning workshops for the period 2020-2022.

The TLP Europe coalition also met at a General Assembly in October 2019 in Paris, with the presence of around thirty representatives of European organizations.

From the details of the activities and results obtained below, it is possible to affirm that the project objectives are fully met in terms of strengthening and expanding the TLP alliance, but also in improving the impact of advocacy. .

The presentation of activities and results will follow the four main themes of TLP's work, namely:

Advocacy and influence

Citizen mobilization

Capacity building and governance of the network

Protection of members

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

ADVOCACY AND INFLUENCE

Advocacy on elections

Expected result: Democratic rules and principles are respected in the countries in which the citizens' alliance is active and, where appropriate, insisted on.

Côte d'Ivoire

Between September 2018 and December 2019, TLP coalitions carried out campaigns for an overhaul of the electoral code in Côte d'Ivoire and in Niger.



TLP-CI (Tournons La Page in Côte d'Ivoire), a coalition created at the end of 2018, was immediately able to participate in the various negotiations on the composition and organization of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). By proposing a memorandum and concrete and innovative reforms, TLP-CI was able to do effective influencing work. TLP-CI members particularly insisted on the place and role of young people in the composition of the Commission. They also contributed to popular pressure on President OUATTARA not to run for a third term. This is a huge step forward for democracy in West Africa to which the TLP movement contributed. Nevertheless, the majority of TLP-CI's demands concerning the overhaul of the IEC have been rejected by the powers in place while elections are scheduled for the end of 2020. For TLP-CI, the IEC is today still a possible source of post-electoral conflicts through its lack of resources, transparency and balance.

Press point organized by TLP-CI to request the reconstitution of the IEC

POLITIQUE

Recomposition de la CEI: Le mouvement "Tournons la page" dénonce un déséquilibre dans le projet de loi

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Bien + qu'un portail

Dans le dossier



Grèves et crises sociales

Sondage

Faut-il suspendre ou continuer l'opération d'identification et de délivrance des cartes d'identité malgré les mesures barrières du covid-19?

- Suspendre
- Continuer
- Sans avis

Votez ✓ Voir résultats ✓ Voir Archives

Niger

In Niger, the TLP coalition is a key player in civil society, mobilized to transform electoral processes. After having proposed a memorandum to political and institutional actors in early 2019, TLP secured the organization of a national forum between political forces in order to restore confidence in the electoral process.



This advocacy result is important for TLP, however there is a current breakdown in relations between the opposition and powers in place. Nonetheless, TLP members insisted that the major problems for the upcoming elections lie in the ability to enlist new voters, as the country is struck by insecurity, and the need to have a vote count more transparent than in 2015 (with support from civil society and the European community).

TLP-Niger's biggest advocacy victory of 2019 is being a partner of the High Level Summit on Term Limitation, organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Niamey. During this summit, in the presence of TLP members, President Mahamadou ISSOUFOU reaffirmed his desire to leave power after his second term, thus respecting the Nigerien Constitution. Given the restriction of civic space observed in Niger since 2014, this announcement is a great victory for TLP-Niger and more broadly for the movement as a whole.

This high-level summit enabled 4 national coordinators (Niger, Burundi, Guinea and Congo) as well as the international coordinator of TLP, to lead an advocacy action aimed at 6 former heads of state, engaged within the Koffi ANNAN Foundation, present at the Summit. These former leaders all respected democratic change and committed, following a recommendation from TLP, to carry out a mission supporting democratic alternation in the Republic of Guinea.

A joint declaration and joint action plans were drawn up at this Summit. In addition, TLP-Congo received funding from NDI to carry out awareness-raising actions on respect for the constitution during the year 2020.



Advocacy meeting with the Africa Director of NDI and 4 former African heads of state on the situation in the Republic of Guinea. An advocacy note with clear recommendations was here passed on

Democratic Republic of Congo

TLP-DRC has worked on rooting democracy through awareness campaigns in Goma, Bukavu, Kinshasa and Lubumbashi. The main theme of the conference-debates led by the coalition was: "Towards the consolidation of democracy which also involves local elections ". The conferences organized brought together a total of nearly 500 participants.



TLP-DRC emphasized the gender approach and working with young people. Thus, within the coordination, awareness-raising work (street actions, conferences, etc.) was carried out on the subject of "the role of women in the fight for the consolidation of democracy in the DRC". These actions were coordinated by Jolly KAMUNTU, President of Karibu Jeunesse Nouvelle, an organization newly admitted to TLP-DRC.

In addition to this, during the electoral process, TLP-DRC have set up six billboards where information related to the electoral process is posted every morning. These have been installed on the main street of Bukavu (Avenue Patrice Emery LUMUMBA), in front of the headquarters of NDSCI (Nouvelle Dynamique de la Société Civile), one of TLP-DRC's major organizations. This system now allows young people and motorcyclists (often inaccurately considered delinquents) to be informed about the electoral process in the DRC. It is estimated that these signs are viewed approximately 150 times per day.

During these first two campaigns ("Zero elected re-elected", "Tujuwe ma Candideti"), 33 of the 36 former provincial deputies of South Kivu (i.e. 91.7%) and 27 out of 32 national deputies from South Kivu (i.e. 84.4%) were not re-elected to office, despite running for re-election.

Twelve issues of the monthly electoral newsletter "Echos de TLP" which were printed out were widely relayed in the DRC and relayed on social networks. The impacts are also the same as for billboards. With each publication of an issue, the various broadcasters that are members of or close to the movement repeat them in order to reach a greater number of citizens.

Cameroon

Given the socio-political situation of the country, the strategy adopted by TLP-Cameroon during 2019 consisted mainly in the alternation of information and awareness actions. In parallel, the coalition participated in television broadcasts and debates, organized press conferences and issued statements. Therefore, the national coordinator, during his participation in the various consultation frameworks of the INCREC project implemented by Un Monde Avenir, carried out advocacy actions aimed at the actors in charge of election management. He has thus been asked several times to participate alongside administrative, political and academic actors in discussion debates on the elections in Cameroon.



In addition, relying on the opportunity offered by the African Center for Economic Intelligence and Intelligence (CAVIE), around ten members of the TLP-Cameroon coalition benefited from training in influence techniques and strategic monitoring, with a view to strengthening their capacities for action. This training, held from February 21 to 26, 2019 in Yaoundé, made it possible to position the coalition as a benchmark pole and actor for the training of promoters and Cameroonian civil society organizations in terms of influence strategy, business intelligence and business intelligence.

It is on this basis that TLP-Cameroon, in collaboration with its member organizations, organized actions to observe the unfolding of the elections (before, during and after) and to train the actors who have declared themselves either as representatives of the parties, politicians, or as representatives of the nominated candidates in the polling stations.

Real innovation efforts during election monitoring were undertaken by TLP-Cameroon, in particular with the development of the RECAM mobile application to monitor the elections. It remains today to continue the social mobilization to influence the situation post-election.



Screenshot of the RECAM application for monitoring the electoral process in Cameroon

Advocacy on democracy and institutions

Expected results: African leaders guarantee the conditions for the successful implementation of democracy, in particular by holding genuinely free and transparent elections and rejecting any constitutional manipulation for personal convenience. African leaders respect the principle of term limits.

Gabon

The NGO Educaf, member of the TLP-Gabon coalition, has launched a national campaign for the improvement of the education system in August 2019. Referred to as "Tournons La Page d'un médiocre système éducatif au Gabon" (Let's move on from a mediocre education system in Gabon), it was an opportunity to highlight the education system's shortcomings and show that the heart of the failure is based on the poor economic and political governance imposed by the autocratic power in place for more than 50 years.



For two weeks, Geoffroy Fouboula (President of EDUCAF) and his team visited the schools of Libreville to pass on the message of a modern school that guarantees employment and social stability. When given the chance to discuss this issue, the officials of the National Education Ministry refused an open dialogue on the future of an education system serving the population.



Educaf campaign's banner

Working session in a school in the capital



Democratic Republic of Congo

In the DRC, the TLP national coalition carried out advocacy actions for institutional reforms (Independent National Electoral Commission, Superior Audiovisual and Communication Council, Constitutional Court and National Human Rights Council) and legislative changes (overhaul of the Constitution of the Republic, electoral law, law on INEC...). The objective of this action is to ensure that the political alternation obtained manages to open certain breaches in a political system locked by the years in power of Joseph KABILA. It is in this context that two plea hearings were obtained from the President of the Republic Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI. The latter was very receptive and promised his support in this fight, a pledge of true democracy in our country. The President of the Republic returned to the need for these reforms in his last speech to the Nation before the two Houses of Parliament meeting in Congress.



**The national coordinator of TLP-DRC
with the President of the DRC,
HE F. TSHISEKEDI, October 10, 2019**



Advocacy on French and European policy in Africa

Expected results : Western countries no longer tolerate anti-democratic practices in Africa.



Niger

At the end of 2018, by winning the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic for TLP-Niger gave important credibility to our message in favor of democracy in Africa within French diplomacy.

Undeniably, TLP has become a recognized and essential player for French and European political decision-makers when discussing civil and political rights in French-speaking Africa. It should be noted that each position taken by the international coordination on a situation in a country has previously been discussed and agreed with the local coalition.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Following the elections in the DRC and the important work of mobilizing the TLP coalition in favor of democratic alternation, the international coordination was invited to speak to French media on a number of occasions. This was the case on January 14, 2019, during RCF radio show « Le Grand Invité de la Matinale ».



Chad

In February 2019, TLP's international coordination, in consultation with ACAT France and CCFD Terre-Solidaire, undertook advocacy action with the French authorities following the attack of Chadian rebel forces by the French airforce. In this context, two advocacy meetings were organized:

- One with the editor for Chad at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE);
- The other with two deputies from the France-Chad Friendship Group.

Several media actions - a press release and radio appearances - were undertaken, including the interview given on February 4, 2019 by the international coordinator on RFI:

“France’s decision to strike a Chadian armed opposition column in conjunction with the Chadian army shows strong French support for the Idriss Déby regime. In addition, the use of all the means at France’s disposal to allow this regime to remain in power raises a question of legitimacy. Is it the role of France, of its foreign operations and of its army, to come to the aid of regimes that has no legitimacy? The regime is very strongly contested for their recurring human rights violations. There is a defense agreement between Chad and France on the legal basis of cooperation, in particular to have Operation Barkhane on site, but from there to have french airstrikes against a rebel force, which isn’t a terrorist force, is still something else that will have to be analyzed. What is certain in any case is that on the legal basis, it will be difficult to attack this strike since the request came from the Chadian state and there is an agreement between the two armies ”.

The international coordinator is thus regularly invited to take a position, as spokesperson for the TLP movement, on the decisions of France’s African policy, in particular within the French-speaking media.

Cameroon

In the context of the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, TLP international signed a statement of support for rapper Valsero and other prisoners of conscience in the country. In addition, in the context of the Anglophone crisis, inter-association advocacy meetings (with ACAT-France and the CCFD Terre Solidaire) were carried out in order to obtain a shift in France's policy in the country. These 4 meetings, including two with Rémi MARÉCHAUX (Africa Director of the French Ministry of foreign) did not achieve the desired result, which was to receive a clear position from France on the need for openness of the political field in order to resolve the ongoing civil war.



Guinea

Following the numerous violations committed during the demonstrations against the change of Constitution and the creation of TLP-Guinea in October 2019, Tournons La Page has set up communications and advocacy actions on the political situation in the country. The first action was the coordination of a joint press release with several European organizations.



Joint press release on the situation in Guinea



This public action was preceded by a request for an institutional meeting in July 2019 with the Africa department of the french ministry of foreign affairs, signed by 7 organizations including 4 TLP members in Europe. On July 24, 2019, this collective obtained a two-hour interview at the ministry of foreign affairs during which the Ministry recalled its fear of a deterioration of the political situation due to the desire of President Alpha CONDÉ to run for a third term, promulgating a new constitution.

These actions carried out in 2019 made it possible to build a positive dynamic within TLP and with European allies with a view to a year 2020 when Guinea will be a priority country for the movement.

Advocacy with african regional bodies

Expected results: African regional bodies are actively engaged in promoting democracy and the rule of law.

TLP wishes to develop its advocacy actions with regional bodies, especially in Africa, but has not managed to implement real actions in this direction in 2019. This will be one of the strategic axes for years to come, especially with the Protection program which plans to participate in the biannual sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. For the moment, TLP's capacity for action at the sub-regional and / or regional level remains limited, in particular due to a lack of human and financial resources to interact with the various political bodies at this level long-term.

CITIZEN MOBILIZATION

Burundi

Because of the strong repression against civil society in Burundi, the majority of the members of the TLP-Burundi coalition are in exile in several countries, notably in Rwanda, Uganda and Belgium.



As part of the citizen mobilization, TLP-Burundi organized several activities:

A brainstorming workshop organized in Kigali (Rwanda) on July 17 and 18, 2019 on the theme "The rule of law and democracy in Burundi: where are we? ". This workshop made it possible to make recommendations to the Burundian government, the political opposition, civil society, the East African Community as well as the guarantors of the Arusha Agreement and other partners of the Burundi.

A demonstration of support organized by TLP-Burundi in collaboration with the Burundian Community of Belgium on September 27, 2019 in front of the Tanzanian embassy in Brussels to protest against the threats of forced repatriation weighing on the 180,000 Burundian refugees in Belgium. The action was crowned with success as Tanzanian diplomats in Brussels welcomed representatives to the embassy who were able to further explain the situation in Burundi.

Cameroon

For the year 2019, TLP-Cameroon has decided to intensify its awareness-raising, mobilization and advocacy campaign in order to encourage the support of local actors in the dynamics of change and for better democratic governance in Cameroon. With this in mind, the coalition mobilized public opinion during the "Great National Dialogue" organized on the instructions of the President of the Republic between September 30 and October 4, 2019. TLP-Cameroon member organizations not only drew the attention of the government and all participants to their responsibility for the expected results but also invited them to take responsibilities out of love for Cameroon and its people.



Citizen mobilization around the "Great National Dialogue"



Niger

Throughout 2019, TLP-Niger organised several press conferences, TV debates, awareness raising campaigns and civic talks in the Fadas (youth groups in the neighborhoods) to Inform the population of the merits of democratic change and good governance. Marches followed by meetings were also organized to mobilize the population on major issues.



These actions were made possible through the launch of a national project funded by Voice (the Dutch cooperation) and entitled "Together for tax justice, accountability and democracy in Niger". This important project, deployed in 8 out of 10 regions in Niger, aims to influence public policies towards greater tax justice and the strengthening of democracy in Niger. The project strengthens the capacity of Nigerien civil society organizations to act and mobilize citizens through significant local deployment and sensitization of young people. It also identifies cases of corruption and acts effectively to ensure that they do not go unpunished.

TLP-Niger actors work collectively to strengthen the monitoring and control role of civil society organizations through dialogue with public authorities, while acting as a relay for the interests and needs of the population.

Demonstration organised by TLP-Niger



STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES AND GOVERNANCE OF THE NETWORK

To coordinate the Tournons La Page movement's actions, a steering committee has been set up, bringing together elected representatives from each coalition. The committee meets physically twice a year to discuss the governance, advances and challenges of the movement and also holds virtual monthly meetings to follow up on the various activities.

During 2019, an organizational audit was carried out in each coalition by the consultant Paul SAMANGASSOU. In addition, in May 2019, strategic planning workshops were held. Finally, TLP's first International General Assembly took place from July 1st to 5th, 2019 in the presence of 60 guests from 12 different countries. Among them, many international partners (Amnesty International, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Africans Rising, Publish What You Pay etc.) were present..

Europe

The Tournons La Page movement aims to enable the organization of regular exchanges and meetings between activists and national TLP coalitions. It also aims to create exchanges between researchers, diaspora activists and organizations committed to political change and good governance in Europe.



As such, the movement organized a meeting with the members of TLP-Europe in October 2019, bringing together around thirty participants including members of the African diasporas in Paris. During this meeting, a discussion-debate with two researchers, Victor MAGNANI and Thierry VIRCOULON, about a study on the progression of authoritarianism in Africa, was a moment much appreciated by the participants. The content of the meeting was transcribed and published by the Ritimo member organization of TLP-Europe.

The links with activists in the diaspora are very strong for advocacy activities, especially with Gabon and Togo, thanks to the participation of two organizations: Synergie Togo and Ça suffit comme ça Gabon. Thus, a two-hour advocacy meeting was organized between representatives of the two organizations and Mr. Jean-Luc MELENCHON, member of the french parliament, presidential candidate and President of the La France Insoumise group at the National Assembly, in December 2019. The interview enabled a comprehensive discussion of the following points:

- France's role in Africa;
- The diaspora's place in France-Africa relations;
- The economic and political situations in Central and West Africa.

Following this interview, a relationship of trust was established with the La France Insoumise group at both the National Assembly and the European Parliament, which allowed and still allows effective advocacy work today.

To strengthen the link with organizations of emigrated people in France, Laurence NDONG and Brigitte AMEGANVI, as representatives of the diaspora within TLP, participated in an awareness raising session, held in November 2019, about the political situation in Africa, during an inter-association gathering organized by the Paris delegation of Secours Catholique.

Burundi

One of the great successes in terms of structuring the TLP network has been the relaunch of TLP-Burundi activities since January 2019. This coalition is made up of members of civil society in exile in Belgium, Uganda and Rwanda. It was therefore necessary to build a working mechanism between these members: two workshops were set up, with the support of the consultant Paul SAMANGASSOU in Brussels and Kigali in March 2019.



In support of TLP-Burundi members based in Belgium, the international TLP coordination requested the support of EURAC (Network of European Associations for Central Africa), which facilitated banking support and provided logistical support. (rooms, communication...) at TLP-Burundi.

Still modestly, the reviving of TLP-Burundi has made it possible to re-organize advocacy activities for this country and to organize awareness-raising and influence events in Brussels.



Cameroon

The major challenge of the 2019 roadmap signed between Secours Catholique Caritas France and the TLP-Cameroon Coalition was the structuring of the coalition at national level. Two activities were organized for this purpose, including geographic workshops with the main objective of laying the foundations for a structuring of the coalition at national level and the holding of the first General Assembly of TLP-Cameroon on October 29, 2019 in Yaoundé.

The latter, where 50 participants from nine regions of Cameroon were present, had as its main objective the adoption of the strategic orientations of the 2020-2022 triennium of the coalition (including the governance structure of the movement at the national level).

The main results obtained from these activities were the recruitment of new members of the TLP-Cameroon coalition, the sensitization of citizens on the objectives of the campaign and the adoption of a governance architecture of TLP-Cameroon.

Congo

TLP-Congo organized a workshop on the organizational analysis of the coalition, moderated by the consultant Paul SAMANGASSOU. The general objective was to support the Tournons La Page international network in the process of structuring its national entities as well as in the development of its global strategy 2020-2022.



The TLP-Congo coalition conducted three training sessions in nonviolent action during the year 2019 in February, March and April. The objective of this activity was to train young people in civic engagement and to make them real agents of change for democratic change in 2021. During these sessions, some educational tools were developed and used such as guides, the trainer and educational sheets, which were distributed to the participants. In total, more than a hundred people were trained to become citizen leaders.

Niger

A workshop on the structural audit of member organizations of TLP-Niger, facilitated by the consultant Paul SAMANGASSOU, was organized from March 11th to 13th, 2019. This workshop enabled the highlighting of the strengths and weaknesses of organizations as well as the progression opportunities for the latter.



This work was followed by a second workshop for the drafting of TLP-Niger's 2020-2022 strategic plan, on May 13th and 14th, 2019, and by the TLP-Niger General Assembly on May 18th, 2019. During this activity, a conference was chaired by a constitutionalist on the theme "What credible election for Niger in 2021?". The statutes and the rules of procedure were amended and adopted and a national coordination committee was put in place for a mandate of 3 years.

Following a call for applications launched by the donor VOICE at the national level, TLP-Niger applied with the support of its support staff and was selected to carry out the project entitled "Together for tax justice, accountability and democracy in Niger". A fund worth 161,344 euros was thus obtained and will be disbursed in three phases.

TLP-Niger received the first instalment in September 2019 which enabled it to:

- Organize TLP general assemblies in the 8 regions of Niger;
- Organize training in lobbying and advocacy for the 8 coordinations;
- Organize a general public conference in Zinder "Responsible youth participation for inclusive and peaceful elections 2020-2021 in Niger"
- Make kakemonos, T-shirts and notepads bearing the effigy of TLP-Niger and VOICE;
- Recruit support staff made up of one project manager and three monitors spread into three zones.

Launch of new national coalitions



Guinea

During the protest against a potential 3rd term of Alpha CONDÉ, the TLP-Guinea coalition was officially launched on September 7, 2019 in Conakry, in the presence of Maïkoul ZODI, TLP-Niger's coordinator.

During this meeting, the deputy coordinator of TLP-Guinea, Oumar SYLLA, recalled the approach at the origin of this coalition: *"At the express request of Guinean civil society, the international coordination of the Tournons La Page movement, agreed to register Guinea among the member countries of this vast network of international civil society activists, in order to support Guinean social actors in their struggle for the establishment of a culture of democratic change in their country. From now on, the struggle for democratic change initiated by Guinean civil society is part of a larger struggle which will have more echoes at the international level".*

From the start of its action, the TLP-Guinea movement was criminalized and targeted by repression. Thus, a month after the launch of the coalition, several members of the coalition were arrested for several weeks between October and November 2019.



Members of the new TLP-Guinea coalition

Togo

Not without difficulties, the TLP-Togo coalition was launched on October 15th, 2019. Maikoul ZODI and Alexandre Didier AMANI, respectively coordinators of TLP-Niger and TLP-CI, were to be present for the launch but were unfortunately refused the entry onto Togolese territory.

On RFI waves, following the entry ban on Togolese territory of TLP members, Yark DAMEHAME, Minister of Security and Civil Protection, justified this choice at the highest level of the state by the fact that TLP "has no legal basis".

"We cannot accept this kind of thing with us," he added. Regardless, the launch was a success and the TLP-Togo coalition is now ready to take up the challenges and work for democratic change and good governance in the country.



PROTECTION OF MEMBERS

Expected results: Committed African civil society activists who support democratic change are protected against possible acts of violence orchestrated by state and non-state groups against them.

In September 2019, after several months of negotiation and construction, TLP, in collaboration with Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Homme (AEDH), member organization of TLP-Europe, launched the Protection program, of which the main objectives are the following:



- Set up alert systems and activist protection mechanisms specific to Tournons La Page (rapid reaction, petitions, etc.);
- Network TLP with organizations specialized in the protection of human rights defenders;
- Set up an emergency fund to help with legal fees and living expenses for families.

Various measures were also taken by TLP for the protection of civil society actors, like the joint declaration drafted in March 2019 by 19 organizations including TLP, calling for the release of Germain RUKUKI arbitrarily imprisoned in Burundi.

An advocacy mission was also carried out in March 2019 in Niger to demand the release of Illia Dan Malam Mahamane, known as Sadat, locked up since the demonstrations against the finance law in April 2018. Following this mission, a joint press release was published on May 22, 2019 about his case: *"Sadat Illiya Dan Malam's arbitrary detention decision after an appeal by the prosecutor is a further injustice for this activist who has been imprisoned for more than a year, Amnesty International, Tournons La Page, le Réseau des Organisations pour la Transparence et l'Analyse Budgétaire (ROTAB) and Alternatives Espaces Citoyens in Niger declared today"*.

Lastly, Tournons La Page mobilized in April 2019 following the arrests of 13 demonstrators in Chad, who campaigned against the ban on firewood in the city of N'Djamena, leading families to burn to their beds to heat their meals.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

This part of the report is largely based on the work carried out by consultant Paul SAMANGASSOU for a year (September 2018-September 2019) with all TLP coalitions and international coordination. His work aimed to structure the TLP network and assess the technical and organizational capacities of members. The purpose of this work was to help the coalitions to self-assess and to develop a strategic plan. It emerges from this an inventory of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and risks for TLP as a whole.

The strengths of the TLP movement

- A recognized expertise and an innovative subject;
- A dense and heterogeneous network, with leaders recognized at national and international levels;
- A recognized and appreciated advocacy capacity;
- A way of engaging members of the organization through volunteering;
- The ability to work with other CSOs in a network;
- The presence of certain CSOs throughout the countries;
- Good knowledge by the staff (facilitators) of the context of the intervention areas as well as the problems to which the implemented actions seek to provide solutions;
- A decision-making structure based on a clear division of responsibilities;
- The ability to do good deeds at a lower cost.

Opportunities to seize

- New information technologies (social networks facilitate the dissemination of information in real time);
- Collective commitment to change;
- Commitment to the development of partners to support the action of civil society;
- New electoral peak in Africa from 2020 and the possibility of implementing the techniques proven for 5 years;
- Large human rights organizations that are expanding their support for TLP;
- Marked interest of some donors in the topic covered by TLP: democracy and civil and political rights.

The consultant's work made it possible to build a typology of coalitions, divided into 3 groups:

- Strong coalitions: Niger, Gabon and DRC;
- Emerging coalitions: Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea;
- Coalitions to be strengthened: Burundi, Cameroon and Chad.

Each of the coalitions was able to take stock of its operating process and its future by drawing up a strategic plan which covered both the actions to be carried out and the operation of the coalition. This enabled the international secretariat to refine its plan to support coalitions.

REVIEWS AND PROSPECTS

In five years, the Tournons La Page campaign has grown from an informal collective made up of four coalitions, implementing local citizen actions, to an international campaign of ten coalitions able to achieve specific and concerted results, with operational governance and coordination in the service of coalitions. At the end of 2018, the steering committee decided to transform the TLP campaign into an international citizens' movement through the creation of an autonomous legal entity, the association under French law legally defined by the law from 1901: "Tournons La Page".

The next three years will be devoted to strengthening the autonomy of Tournons La Page so that the organisation has an international influence and can ensure action in favor of democracy. The link between Secours Catholique-Caritas France (SCCF) and TLP's coordinating entity will diminish as the 2020-2022 three-year program progresses, to allow TLP International to evolve independently. The human, financial and material resources, and the skills currently made available by the SCCF, will be transferred during the program under the legal responsibility of the Tournons La Page association, via a defined transfer plan comprising very specific stages.

The main steps of this TLP empowerment plan are as follows:

- **2020:** submission of TLP statutes (March 2020) and administrative and financial procedures, development of the TLP procedures manual - administrative, financial and HR - (3rd quarter 2020), establishment of the International Secretariat (September 2020) which will be composed of 4 people (FTE) including an administrative and financial assistant;
- **2021:** recruitment of the TLP Association Executive Secretary by the TLP Board and relocation of the TLP International Secretariat to its own premises.

These steps, precisely described in TLP's three-year 2020-2022 program, will be carried out under the operational responsibility of the TLP Office, in close collaboration with the International Directorate of the SCCF and according to the empowerment schedule validated at the start of 2020. .

At the same time, TLP will strengthen its advocacy actions both at the national and international levels. It is already planned to prepare files denouncing abuses of political power, particularly in terms of freedom of expression through the control of Internet communications.

At coalition level, two main areas of work are planned, namely institutional strengthening for each coalition and citizen mobilization to put pressure on the public authorities and ensure respect for the fundamental rights of each person. Finally, the defense of activists will remain a central point with the continued establishment of support and defense mechanisms for those who are unjustly imprisoned and sentenced for their commitment to greater social justice.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Different evaluation modalities were used by the international coordination of TLP in order to ensure daily monitoring throughout the project. Depending on the activity, different tools were used: field visits, meetings and informal discussions with members, monitoring and monthly meetings of the international steering committee, etc.

In 2019, these follow-up activities were distributed as follows:

- **9 steering committees meeting:** One meeting per month by audio conference and one face-to-face meeting in April 2019;
- **8 organizational analysis workshops** organised;
- **8 strategic planning workshops** organised in Africa;
- **4 follow-up committees** for consulting in matters of structuring and organizational development of TLP;
- **3 field missions** (march, july and october) led by the International Coordinator in Niger: Niamey Summit, preparation of the international GA and international GA.

TLP has paid particular attention to monitoring and evaluating its coalitions. The ultimate goal is to have groups of civil society organizations aware of their commitments and capable of intervening in public debate and in condemning abuses of power. In these instances, monitoring and evaluating are always carried out, as well taking into account the risks incurred by activists.

Another element taken into account during evaluation and monitoring is compliance with the TLP charter. The steering committee takes particular care to avoid hazardous commitments on behalf of the coalitions. The fight for democracy also requires rigor and transparency. As part of the monitoring and evaluation actions, the COPIL and the International Coordination demanded clear financial reports from the coalitions, where a misuse of funds cannot be suspected.

PRESS REVIEW

During this period TLP strengthened its media penetration. Today journalists increasingly refer to actions being carried out in each of the countries, but also directly seek information from coalitions and the International Coordination. TLP thus becomes a center for providing information.

In this area, TLP officials also ensure the accuracy of the information collected in order to avoid manipulation and fake news.

Below are cited the articles for which we were aware and which could be identified:

Key information:

- 40 press articles directly mentioning “Tournons La Page”;
- Leading international media: BBC, Deutsche Welle and RFI;
- Valuable associative contacts: Amnesty International and Secours Catholique;
- Relays mainly French-speaking but also English-speaking and Italian-speaking;
- 8 national coalitions concerned by press coverage;
- 36 articles with a positive or neutral tone, 4 articles with a negative tone.

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Participants posing at the end of the third training session on nonviolent action organized by TLP-Congo

