



TOURNONS LA PAGE
Pour l'alternance démocratique
en Afrique

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

The year 2021 has been a year of great advancements and changes for Tournons La Page. First of all, the gradual lifting of the anti-COVID-19 restrictions allowed us to resume meetings between the members of the network and to re-launch the dynamics of citizen mobilization.

Seeing each other again, thinking of new strategies and meeting with citizens on a daily basis to advance democracy was more than decisive, in a context of rising insecurity in the Sahel and the multiplication of military coups, particularly in Guinea and Chad, where our members are on the front lines to stand up to military juntas.

2021 was also a year of strong growth for the movement internationally. Now fully independent, the International Secretariat has grown significantly with the recruitment of new staff, a new headquarters and the support of new donors.

The prospects for the movement's development are significant, especially as issues related to the seizure of power by illegitimate regimes become a major concern for the international community.

One of the great successes of the past year has been the development of our members' expertise, documentation and advocacy. In this year alone, seven advocacy reports have been published. This is a lasting reinforcement of the movement's credibility and its unique capacity to be both a force of opposition and a force of proposal. In this way, we are trying to make Camus' words our own: "It is not enough to criticize one's time, one must still try to give it a shape, and a future".

But this fight to impose the legitimacy of the struggle for democracy and a more prosperous future on African citizens is not without risk. At the time of writing, several members of the movement in Chad, Niger and Gabon are sleeping in prison. More than ever, the defense of those who keep democracy alive is an absolute priority.

To all those who have supported us in 2021, on this path full of pitfalls, thank you.

Marc Ona ESSANGUI
President

Laurent DUARTE
Executive Secretary

2021 IN FIGURES

11 coalitions : Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Europe, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Niger, Togo

252 member organizations in Africa and Europe

42 press articles directly mentioning "Tournons La Page" in the international press

26 press release prepared by the coalitions

7 advocacy reports

4 tribunes

14 members at risk supported by our emergency fund

2 strategic trials conducted

3 new partners

15 455 subscribers on social networks

402 374 € budget

CONTEXTUAL CHANGES



Mobilization of Tournons La Page Niger

Like 2020, the year 2021 began with obstacles related to the fight against COVID-19 that has hindered the realization of cross-cutting actions carried out by the coalitions, such as physical meetings and citizen mobilization activities. The COVID-19 pandemic has also been used as a pretext to justify the restriction of fundamental freedoms enjoyed by citizens, leading to a closure of civic space and multiple arbitrary arrests. At the European level, the health crisis has also impacted activities by limiting the possibility of organizing public events or multiplying institutional advocacy meetings.

Furthermore, the year 2021 was marked by profound political instability due to the advent of a wave of military coups that particularly affected West and Central Africa, limiting the work of coalitions in two of TLP's countries of action: **Guinea** and **Chad**. This nevertheless reinforced the relevance and legitimacy of TLP's struggle to promote the entrenchment of democracy as a guarantor of stability throughout the continent.

Chad has experienced an unprecedented political upheaval following the sudden death of President Idriss DEBY ITNO, the day after the proclamation of the provisional results of the first round of 2021 presidential election. His son, General Mahamat Idriss DEBY ITNO, took power at the head of a Military Transition Council, ensuring a dynastic transition.

Yet, despite the critical health and security context, elections were held in **Congo, Niger** and **Chad**. The presidential elections in the Republic of Congo, to be held in March 2021, were marked by numerous irregularities, including massive violations of the electoral law, attempts to restrict the campaign activities of opposition candidates, vote buying, ballot box stuffing with the complicity of agents of the public force and local administrative authorities, and the cutting off of Internet, social networks, telephone calls and SMS messages. The fact that one of the candidates was prevented from continuing his campaign activities, followed by his death, were unprecedented events in the political history of Congo, which could have justified postponing the first round of the presidential election.

Finally, this year was decisive in the structuring of the international movement Tournons La Page with the transfer of human resources and the office outside of Secours Catholique-Caritas France, thus becoming financially and legally autonomous. This has led to the African members taking control of the governance bodies, a strengthening of the International Secretariat staff and the obtaining of several financing, as well as the membership of international networks.

This report was completed in the Spring of 2022.

OBJECTIVES

The second year of the three-year program allowed us to pursue TLP's vision of forming a broad citizen's alliance and carrying out joint mobilizations to build and sustain the conditions for true democracy on the African continent.

This second year aimed to meet the objective of the three-year program to "Contribute to the improvement of democratic processes in Africa by strengthening African civil societies through the animation of an international citizen's movement Tournons La Page".

To achieve this goal, TLP has set four strategic priorities that structure its action plan until 2022.

Citizen mobilization is an important strategic point that goes through several stages. First of all, the awakening of consciences in order for citizens to appropriate democratic principles is an expected objective. At the same time, it is essential to train the members in the animation of community groups so that the movement can take root locally.

Advocacy and **communication** are part of the strategic priorities of the three-year plan 2020-2022, which includes building countervailing power advocacy while conducting strategic litigation at the national and international levels. One of the objectives has also been to document human rights violations and produce expertise on democracy in Africa. To fully realize this objective, TLP's priority is to have and facilitate effective, operational and secure communication platforms and/or tools at both the national and international levels.

The **protection of members** is a key component of TLP's strategic priorities. The objective is therefore to strengthen the protection of TLP members by consolidating and amplifying the actions of the movement by capitalizing on the gains made in terms of protection.

The movement must also strengthen its governance and its competences. This involves consolidating TLP's governance bodies, capitalizing and circulating knowledge and skills within the movement. TLP aims to strengthen the capacities of its members, create an independent structure and expand the network in Africa.

From the details of the activities and results obtained below, it is possible to affirm that the objectives have been largely met in terms of strengthening and expanding the movement as well as the scope of the advocacy carried out, despite a year marked by the global health crisis and strong political instability in Africa.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS



Citizen mobilization

AWARENESS AND APPROPRIATION OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

Chad

In April 2021, following the death of President Idriss DEBY ITNO, his son Mahamat Idriss DEBY ITNO succeeded him at the head of a Transitional Military Council. In light of this affront, TLP-TCHAD members mobilized significantly through the [Wakit Tama](#) movement. In spite of a strong repression, sit-ins were organized as a sign of protest against this dynastic transition. In addition, a conference was organized around the following theme: "Can the current political transition in Chad lead to a democratic changeover? It allowed to reflect and thus contribute to the transition process guaranteeing the consolidation of the rule of law and encouraging the emergence of a Chadian nation based on a common vision of governance.



In addition, the coalition has been very active in denouncing the revision of the Constitution in 2020, only two years after the adoption of a new Constitution by the ruling political elite. The revision is illegitimate, as it was not the subject of a national consensus. In order to shed light on this fraudulent and revolting practice, members of TLP-Chad organized various conferences, accompanied by debates, on the following theme: "The Constitution in Chad: X-ray of a fundamental law "trivialized" by the political power".

Democratic Republic of Congo

In response to the high level of corruption in the country and the increasing restriction of individual and collective freedoms, the members of Tournons La Page produced forty thirty-minute programs, which were broadcast on Radio Maendeleo in Bukavu, the largest community radio station in the east of the country. The programs, which focus on various themes such as democracy and good governance, aim to help citizens appropriate democratic principles and values while raising their awareness of the vital importance of democracy in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Gabon

An advocacy and mobilization campaign on "*coronabusiness*" was conducted by members of the national coalition in Gabon to highlight the abuses related to the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, the government has used the state of emergency in which the country is immersed as a justification to adopt drastic measures that considerably restrict civic space and encourage the implementation of illicit enrichment systems.



Guinea

In Guinea, members of Tournons La Page have mobilized strongly for the return of members of civil society who were previously in exile, playing a major role as leaders of the [Front National de Défense de la Constitution](#) (FNDC), a movement opposed to the third term of Alpha CONDE.



Forced into exile or prison for nearly two years because of a strong repression of which they are the main targets, the leaders and members of Tournons La Page were able to return to their country, following a coup d'état. They were welcomed and cheered by a vast human tide. This large-scale demonstration was highly symbolic as it illustrated the enthusiasm generated by the fight led by Tournons La Page.



Oumar SYLLA, alias Foniké Menguè, celebrating his release.

Ivory Coast

The coalition TLP Ivory Coast has set up a human rights caravan, from December 9 to 11, 2021, intended to raise awareness among the population about their fundamental rights in order to contribute to the exercise of democracy in the country.



This initiative notably allowed the training of community leaders in the regions of Abidjan and La Mé on the basic principles of rights on the one hand and the tools for community mobilization on the other. This mobilization was accompanied by an awareness-raising component for the population, through discussion groups, in order to create a citizen's awareness of the exercise of their rights and to contribute to the entrenchment of democracy in Ivory Coast.

Niger

The TLP-Niger coalition has focused its strategy on supporting and mobilizing citizens by inaugurating a "Citizen's House", a true listening, information and orientation center, open to all citizens who can benefit from meeting rooms, a library and a legal office. It is run by volunteers who make it permanently functional in order to assist citizens and answer their questions.



In addition, following the example of the Ivory Coast, a caravan of democracy was launched. However, the caravan was interrupted with the arrest of all the caravaneers while they were on the road. Four TLP Niger activists, as well as the head of programs at the International Secretariat of Tournons La Page, were arrested elsewhere in the city and charged with the same offense. They were held in police custody for at least sixty hours before they were finally released and the charges against them - illegal assembly - were dropped.



Release of Mathieu Pourchier and members of TLP-Niger, accompanied by their lawyers

Togo

On July 8, 9 and 10, the second citizen summit on good governance, democracy and change was held. 150 delegates from civil society organizations, who came from from a dozen ECOWAS countries, met in Cotonou, Benin, under the auspices of Tournons La Page and the Front Citoyen Togo Debout (FCTD).



This summit was centered on the theme "ECOWAS Vision 2050: towards an ECOWAS of the People". At the end of this summit, a declaration called the [Cotonou Declaration](#) was proclaimed. This declaration is of paramount importance as it establishes as an intangible principle the limitation to two presidential terms.



Patrice Talon holding up the baton, symbol of political change

In addition, during this gathering, Beninese President Patrice Talon received and accepted a witness made of ebony and gold, given by Professor David Dosseh, spokesman for the FCTD-TLP-Togo, as part of the campaign to limit presidential terms to two in the ECOWAS region. By accepting this symbol, the Beninese President assures that he will respect this limitation and will not seek a new mandate. This act illustrates the mobilization capacity of Tournons La Page at the regional level.



Participants of the youth day gathered in front of the Palais des Congrès

Moreover, the year 2021 was placed under the sign of the fight against impunity which reigns in Togo and the restoration of the rule of law. This commitment was illustrated with the realization of a sporting and cultural activity on March 26, 2021, in the form of a jogging event bringing together young people involved in several member organizations of TLP-Togo and partner organizations such as CACIT. Four teams of five participants ran through the streets and answered questions to collect as many letters as possible to write "STOP IMPUNITY". In doing so, it helped to involve youth in the fight against impunity and to draw the attention of governmental and judicial authorities to the need to put an end to impunity and to strongly condemn the manipulation of justice. A music contest was also held which highlighted artists who, through their songs, carried the message of the fight against impunity.

ELECTION TRAINING AND MONITORING

Chad

Members of the TLP-Chad coalition organized a training session on public policy and citizen control of public action for 30 leaders of civil society organizations. This initiative made it possible to reflect on the means used in the definition of public policies, the modalities of articulation between local, national and international policies, the role of the different actors involved, as well as the modalities of implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these policies. Citizens have a major role to play in developing strategies to influence public policies and in advocating for the implementation of new public policies by public authorities.



Congo

In Congo, TLP members mobilized to train citizens to observe the electoral process, both before and during elections. These sensitization workshops allowed participants to become familiar with the pedagogical techniques to be used in order to transmit the notional content. More than 70 people in Pointe Noire and Brazzaville were able to benefit from this initiative and now have the capacity to transmit the knowledge acquired in various localities. Beyond the pedagogical and capacity building objectives, the main objective of this mobilization was to arouse a certain curiosity for the electoral process in Congo.



Ivory Coast

From February 1 to April 30, a follow-up to the legislative elections took place in order to monitor incidents and violence related to these elections and to document cases of violence and human rights violations. This initiative aimed to alert national and international opinion to the need to calm the electoral process. A team of observers was deployed to ten locations to cross-check information from various sources (press releases, social media posts, ministerial documents).





*Mobilization of
TLP-Ivory Coast
members*

AWARENESS AND LOCAL GROUNDING

Ivory Coast

From August 5 to 8, the members of the national coalition exchanged with the youth and women from various municipalities in order to awaken citizenship among these populations and encourage their participation in civic actions. In addition, these meetings allowed for an exchange on the political challenges facing the country, in particular the democratic deficit. These populations have committed themselves to take initiatives to promote democracy by taking part in the actions led by TLP - Ivory Coast. This awareness is of major importance since it can bring about a major wind of change, especially at the local level.



Niger

After having set up coordinations in all the regions and in almost all the departments of the country, TLP-Niger continues its networking by constituting communal coordinations so that even the voices of those in remote areas are heard and taken into account. In this respect, the day of September 25 illustrates this commitment with the setting up of an inaugural conference framing and orientation conference, a panel of activists and a consultation workshop.



More than a hundred young people and women participated in these activities. At the end of this day, it was noted that the participants became aware that the restriction of civic space by the public authorities should not block the action of activists.

Togo

In February, a collective of victims' families was formed in Lomé, created by the FCTD/TLP-Togo, supported by [Amnesty International Togo](#), the NGO Novation Internationale and the African Youth Network for Democracy and Development. Four relatives of victims are members of the Collective. Tournons La Page is committed to reaching out to the population in order to provide support and to raise awareness of the struggles led by its members for democratic change and the preservation of civil and political rights in Africa.



COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

As usual, on September 15, the coalitions of Tournons La Page mobilized to celebrate this special day.

Cameroon

A press conference was held in Yaoundé in which journalists from local and international media as well as leaders of civil society organizations took part. The theme of the conference was "Democracy and State Governance in Cameroon: the urgency of reforms". Through this action, TLP-Cameroon and its partners wanted to bring to the attention of national and international opinion the current socio-political and economic situation of the country whose perverse consequences on the population call for urgent structural and operational reforms.



Chad

Members of TLP-Chad hosted a radio program on the state of democracy in the country in light of its history and the deep political instability in which the country is immersed.



Democratic Republic of Congo

The national coalition discussed the degree to which the competent authorities have implemented the key principles contained in the 1997 [Universal Declaration on Democracy](#). This reflection concluded with the observation that the organization of free, transparent and regular elections is the guarantee of the proper functioning of democracy in the country.



Guinea

The President of Tournons La Page, Marc Ona ESSANGUI, signed a [tribune](#), entitled "Coups in Africa or the international abandonment of democratic processes", in which he returned to the coup d'Etat led by Alpha CONDÉ. He underlined and deplored the abandonment of democratic processes by regional and international institutions.



Ivory Coast

A round table was organized around the following theme: "Faced with the restriction of civic space, what alternative for the peaceful expression of activists? This initiative aimed to shed light on the limited fields of action of activists in view of the restrictions imposed.



Roundtable discussion on the restriction of civic space

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS



**Advocacy and
communication**

ADVOCACY ON ELECTIONS

Congo

In January 2021, TLP-Congo members published a [report](#) on electoral governance in the country. The report was disseminated through various communication channels - on social networks and in the press - as well as during sensitization workshops on electoral governance. This initiative is part of the national coalition's struggle to improve the state of governance in the country.



RAPPORT SUR LA GOUVERNANCE ELECTORALE EN REPUBLIQUE DU CONGO



Améliorer la gouvernance électorale pour des élections justes, transparentes et apaisées.

Pointe Noire, janvier 2021



Cover of the Report on Electoral Governance in the Republic of Congo "Improving Electoral Governance for Fair, Transparent and Peaceful Elections" (available only in French).

Ivory Coast

The national coalition of Ivory Coast, with the support of TLP International, produced a [report](#) documenting the violence and violations committed during the 2020 electoral process in the country. To do this, a mission to listen to and interview people impacted by community violence was conducted by members of the national coalition in nine localities.



The objective of this monitoring was to track and document cases of human rights violations (types of harm, number of direct and indirect victims, etc.) committed during the electoral period in order to alert national and international opinion to the need to ease tensions and obtain justice for the victims of violations.

Côte d'Ivoire La menace des élections



Cover of the report "Ivory Coast: The Threat of Elections" (only available in French).

Niger

With the support of international coordination, TLP-Niger members produced and published two reports on the 2021 presidential elections, corresponding to the [first](#) et [second](#) rounds. These reports are the result of a meticulous observation of the elections, carried out by a collective of civil society organizations, allowing for a valuable collection of data on the ground.



With this independent citizen observation, Tournons La Page has positioned itself at the national level as a credible structure admitting concrete results on democratic processes. Following the elections, work was done to bring a strategic case to the ECOWAS level in February 2021 on the restriction of civic space during the elections, due to the prohibition of demonstrations and the total shutdown of the Internet that lasted ten days.



- **Left:** Cover of the report "NIGER - Double ballot of December 27, 2020: massive and multiform manipulation of the vote" (only available in French).
- **Right:** Cover of the report "NIGER Second round of presidential elections, between violence and vote theft: an electoral hold-up?" (only available in French).

ADVOCACY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

Burundi

In Burundi, the national coalition published a report in May 2021 that takes stock of the democratic situation in the country. Policy recommendations are proposed in order to loosen the stranglehold put in place by the authoritarian regime of Pierre NKRUZUNZIA and then Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE. In addition, TLP-Burundi members contributed to the drafting of an open letter on the EU's policy towards Burundi. The coalition also participated, with the support of the International Secretariat, in the drafting of the civil society report on the implementation of the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) (ICCPR).





Janvier 2021

Cover of the "State of Democracy in Burundi" report (only available in French).

Cameroon

The coordinator of TLP-Cameroon, Jean-Marc BIKOKO, was interviewed by the international television channel France 24 TV, under the impetus of the NGO Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme. This interview was carried out within the framework of the collaboration and solidarity that exists between the actors involved in the field of human rights and democracy in Cameroon. The national coordinator condemned the attitude of members of the Cameroonian government with regard to the severe restriction of fundamental freedoms and vehemently condemned the harassment of human rights defenders before demanding that the Cameroonian government respect national laws and international commitments in terms of public freedoms.



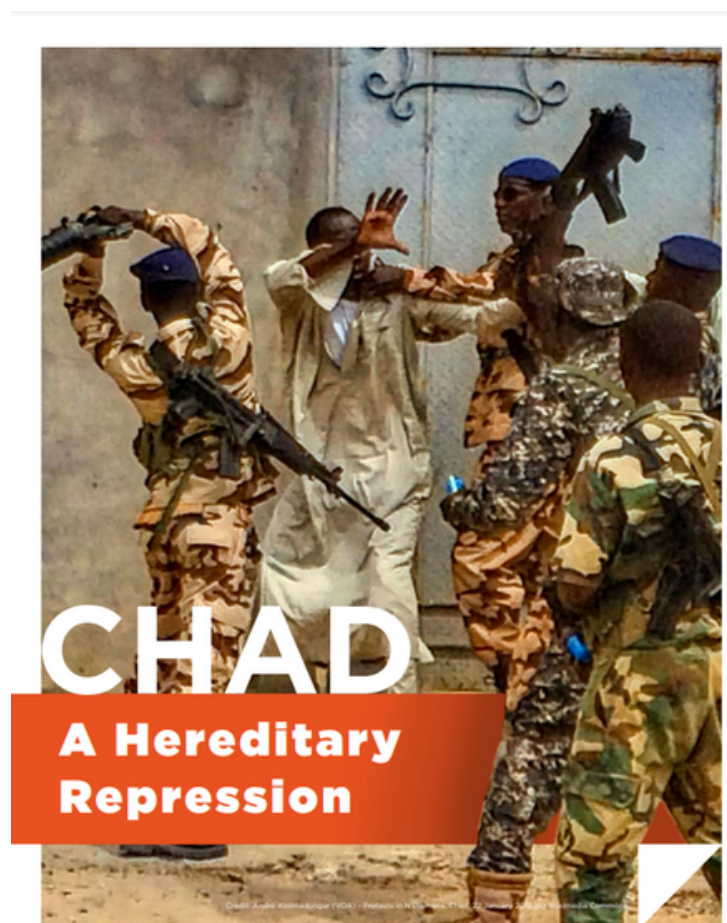
Chad

Following the death of President Idriss DEBY ITNO and the military takeover by his son, TLP-Chad and the International Secretariat mobilized with their partners to work for a transition to democracy. At the national level, TLP members participated in various civil society dynamics to ensure respect for the constitutional order.



On March 10, members of TLP-Chad organized a press briefing that ended with a statement from civil society and human rights defenders entitled "No credible election in a context of violence and serious human rights violations. Through this statement, the signatories call for the establishment of a technical committee to organize an inclusive dialogue that should lead to the formation of a transitional government that will be responsible for organizing credible elections.

In parallel, TLP-Chad members also documented the repression of protests between April and October 2021. A [report](#) was published in early 2022 based on this work.



Cover of the report "Chad: A Hereditary Repression" (available in English).



Congo

In the Republic of Congo, the campaign "For Human Rights in the Congo", led by Agir ensemble pour les droits humains, in partnership with Tournons La Page and the [Observatoire Congolais des Droits de l'Homme](#), was implemented in order to bear witness to the human rights abuses that took place during the last presidential election. This campaign aimed to raise awareness among the general public as well as decision



makers in Congo, France and Europe on the human rights situation in the country. Several webconferences and institutional meetings were organized. During these premieres, excerpts from the documentary "Shut Up or Die" were screened and accompanied by testimonies from the director and Congolese activists on the preservation of human rights. This campaign helped to increase the media and political visibility of the country, which is often forgotten in international affairs.

Democratic Republic of Congo

During the month of June, pleas were made to national authorities on the issue of respect for human rights, particularly in prisons. TLP's fight for the humanization of places of detention in the DRC, where human rights activists and defenders continue to be regularly thrown into prison, was brought to the attention of the government. We were given a sympathetic ear and some pilot projects for the humanization of prisons and other places of detention in the country will be launched in early 2022.



Guinea

In Guinea, a vast international advocacy campaign was conducted for the health of TLP-Guinea's deputy coordinator, Oumar SYLLA, who began a hunger strike on December 25, 2020 and ended it on January 8, 2021. This situation was widely reported in the media and institutional meetings were held throughout the year with United Nations special rapporteurs, French diplomats and European deputies.



The media coverage of this critical situation supported TLP's advocacy on the state of human rights and civic space in Guinea. The Executive Secretary of Tournons La Page, Laurent DUARTE, was invited on the set of the TV5 Monde Africa news. This relentless mobilization was successful as it led to the improvement of Oumar SYLLA's detention conditions and to the reflection of European policy makers on the situation in Guinea.

In addition, a documentary was produced on the mobilization against the third mandate of Alpha CONDE. This film looks back on two years of mobilization in favor of democratic change, in a period marked by repression, exile and strong social protest. Directed by members of TLP-Guinea, it was broadcast on television and watched by tens of thousands of Guineans.

ADVOCACY ON FRENCH POLICY IN AFRICA

Chad

At the European level, after a long advocacy work with our NGO colleagues from Germany ([Misereor](#), [Fokus Sahel](#), [Pain pour le Monde](#)) and France ([Agir ensemble pour les droits humains](#), [ACAT](#), [CCFD-Terre Solidaire](#)) and thanks to the involvement of many parliamentary groups (from the GUE to the EPP), an emergency resolution in the European Parliament was passed. This advocacy victory demonstrates the ability of TLP and its partners and allies to influence foreign policy decisions in Europe. This work was the result of 18 official advocacy meetings (10 at the EU level and 8 at the French level).



At the international level, several press releases were published and TLP was asked by various media (DW, Médiapart, RFI) to expose its point of view on the new coup.

In this perspective, leaders of civil society organizations and human rights defenders wrote an open letter to the President of the French Republic, denouncing France's support for the Military Transitional Council (CMT) and the ITNO family, in the name of security issues in the Sahel.

Niger

Beyond the elections, TLP-Niger actors have also mobilized strongly against the foreign military presence in their country. For several years, the evidence has been clear: insecurity is growing and the possibility for Niger to freely decide its military and political destiny is being hampered.



This has been accompanied by bans on demonstrations or even criminalization (false declarations, attempts to bribe TLP members, arrests, etc.). TLP-Niger leaders were received twice by the Nigerien President, at his request, to discuss issues related to civic space and the fight against terrorism.

Togo

The Togolese President, Faure GNASSINGBE, went to Paris for an official meeting at the Elysée Palace with the French President. This visit was an opportunity for TLP-Togo and the International Coalition to make a plea to the French authorities and human rights bodies concerning the current situation marked by the strong restriction of civic space, justified by the COVID-19 pandemic.





Meeting between the Togolese (left) and French (right) Presidents

Sahel

Jointly with [Oxfam France](#), the [Secours Catholique](#), [Care](#), and CCFD-Terre Solidaire, TLP has undertaken an advocacy process with the ambition of rethinking France's policy in the Sahel. As a first step, a call was launched in April, bringing together some 40 organizations and public figures from the Sahel and France. A collective work dynamic was then put in place and led to the construction of a series of conferences and debates that took place from October 4 to December 10, 2021 at IRIS (French think tank for international relations). French officials were present, such as the Special Representative for the Sahel. Then, in June 2021, an opinion piece was published in the French national media "Le Monde", the media coverage of which allowed the Executive Secretary, Laurent DUARTE, and a signatory from the Sahel, Alioune TINE, to be invited to the Africa news of TV5 Monde. A series of four public meetings and two "Chatham House" meetings with diplomats and researchers were then organized on the subject between October and December 2021.

In March 2022, a [manifesto](#) for the refoundation of France's policy in the Sahel will be published. This work has truly positioned TLP in a prominent political space. Not only does this position the movement and its members alongside major actors in international solidarity, but it also legitimizes the democratic question among humanitarian and political actors.



Intervention of Laurent DUARTE and Alioune TINE on TV5 Monde



Left: Cover of the report "France-Sahel: it is time to reshape the French foreign policy" (only available in French).

Right: Conference initiated by IRIS on France's strategy in the Sahel

France - Africa

Thanks to the technical and financial support of a new partner, the [Open Society European Policy Institute](#), TLP has been able to engage in important advocacy work on the relationship between Africa and France. This work will lead to the production of a [memorandum](#) which will be published in March 2022. The latter is the result of some thirty bilateral exchanges with researchers, journalists, and associative actors, as well as two collective workshops bringing together a total of fifteen associations.



Cover of the Memorandum "Building New Relations between France and Africa" (available in English).

Security cooperation:

With the support of the [Rosa Luxemburg Foundation](#), [Survie](#) and Secours Catholique-Caritas France, TLP has been able to launch a research and documentation project on the impact of security cooperation (training, defense agreements and equipment sales) on the repressive and authoritarian nature of regimes in West Africa, with a particular focus on Ivory Coast, Niger and Guinea. A website with an interactive database will be completed in the spring of 2022.

The database is available here: <https://data.tournonslapage.org/>

STRATEGIC PROCESS

Democratic Republic of Congo

For the past two years, the TLP-DRC coalition and especially its coordinating organization, the [Nouvelle Dynamique de la Société Civile](#) (NDSCI), based in Bukavu, accompanies the inhabitants of Mbobero, a locality in South Kivu, in the face of the former President Joseph KABILA who came to take away their land, which led to a land conflict that hit the poorest and was accompanied by serious human rights violations.



To denounce this situation, the national coalition took up this case and supported the victims by filing a complaint on their behalf in June 2020.

At the international level, TLP has publicized this struggle in the media and with European and international decision-makers (UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, for example). In December 2020, a young community leader, Patrick IRENGE, was killed at point-blank range by a military officer assigned to guard the claimed concession. The population then gathered for his funeral and held a sit-in protest. Kabila's military responded with live ammunition. A new complaint, supported by more than 3,000 people, was then filed by TLP-RDC against this soldier for homicide. The Military Tribunal of the Bukavu Garrison pronounced its verdict on March 3, 2021 and sentenced the soldier to death and to the payment of damages in *solidum* with the Congolese State to the tune of \$50,000 (\$20,000 for the civil party YASHENGE, father of the victim, and \$30,000 for Mrs. FURAH, widow of the victim) for murder and abandonment of post.

COMMUNICATION & VISIBILITY

Award of the 2020 Citizen Movement

At the Cotonou Summit, the Tournons La Page movement was awarded the 2020 Citizen Movement of the Year Award - an annual award given by [Africans Rising](#) - following an online vote and the mobilization of 5,000 members and friends of TLP. The award recognizes movements engaged in nonviolent action to promote justice, peace and dignity for all Africans everywhere. It was dedicated to the activist Oumar SYLLA, alias Foniké Menguè, deputy coordinator of TLP-Guinea, imprisoned since September 29, 2020 for his activism. This demonstrates the movement's capacity to influence and mobilize while granting it legitimacy and recognition on the international scene.



Launch of a new newsletter

Since May, in addition to the newsletter on the protection of activists, we have also launched a newsletter on the actions and commitments of TLP. Five newsletters have been sent to over 3,000 contacts through this new communication channel. The "Protection" newsletter, which reports on threats made to activists, is also still sent out every month. TLP has thus acquired a new channel of diffusion and mobilization of its network.

Newsletter Tournons La Page

Engagement et action

Tournons La Page (TLP) est un mouvement réunissant plus de 200 organisations africaines et européennes ayant pour objectif commun la promotion de l'alternance démocratique, en menant des actions pacifiques et non partisans.



Tournons La Page mène depuis sa création de grandes actions de mobilisation citoyenne pour éveiller les consciences et favoriser le contrôle citoyen de l'action publique. En ligne comme dans la rue, les activistes de TLP militent sans relâche pour l'alternance démocratique, la bonne gouvernance et le respect des droits humains.

Publication of an edition in the magazine Passerelles

Tournons La Page was involved in the publication of an issue in the international magazine Passerelles entitled "Democracy under pressure, authoritarianism, repression, struggles...". Indeed, Laurent DUARTE, Executive Secretary, was a member of the editorial committee and wrote, jointly with the treasurer of the movement, Brigitte AMEGANVI, an [article](#) on the challenges of mobilization against authoritarianism in Africa. This initiative contributes to the valorisation of the members' militant knowledge and allows to put the democratic issue at the heart of the agendas and priorities of other NGOs.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS



Protection of members

TRAINING ON DIGITAL SECURITY

In order to build the capacity of Tournons La Page member organizations and prevent cybersecurity risks for our members, training on digital security was provided in all coalitions. In total, no less than 150 people have benefited and are now able to advise their peers on digital dangers. This awareness-raising component is essential since, nowadays, digital tools contribute to the participation of the population in democracy.



Noël Tadeignon providing training on digital security in Togo

Cameroon

A training workshop on digital security was offered to human rights defenders, in light of the alarming observation of the gradual narrowing of civic space materialized by restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, demonstration, fueled by the health crisis. Digital security has become a political, economic and social issue of the first order, especially for human rights defenders who are subject to numerous computer attacks.



Chad

In November, a capacity-building workshop on digital security for human rights defenders was held at the 'National House of Chadian Women' in N'Djari. Human rights defenders are regularly subjected to threats and virtual attacks orchestrated by fervent supporters of the Chadian regime. The Digital Protection of Human Rights Defenders project is a response to this desire to protect human rights defenders and equip them to combat online disinformation.



Congo

In Congo, three training sessions on the use of digital applications were held to build the technical capacity of members of the national coalition's departmental branches.



Togo

In March, two citizen trainings - in Lomé and Vogan - on digital security and mobilization on social networks were organized by the FCTD-TLP-Togo, with a focus on youth. The objective was to equip them on the use of social networks and data protection in order to encourage their commitment to participate in the construction of the rule of law.



WOMEN LEADERS MEETINGS

One of the priorities of Tournons La Page is to support and strengthen women's involvement in coalitions and civil society organizations. As a result, a network of women leaders has been formed and meetings have been held. This initiative not only strengthens the gender dimension in governance and activities by giving them a space where they can fully and freely express themselves, but also builds a network of solidarity and resilience in the face of repression.



Women leaders meeting

Cameroon

An exchange workshop between women leaders and human rights defenders on the challenges, issues and perspectives in the exercise of citizenship in Cameroon was held on December 2 and 3 in the premises of the National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon (CENC). This initiative aimed at enabling TLP-Cameroon members to define an effective and common strategy for Cameroonian women leaders and activists of different political persuasions to commit themselves to contribute more effectively to democratic anchoring at national and regional levels.



Chad

On November 24, a workshop to set up the pool "Mutual consultation framework for women leaders" was organized in the large room of the Chad Community's Etoile center. The presence of women in decision-making bodies is very limited. With the aim of establishing a national and inclusive dialogue, this framework for exchange and reflection with women leaders allows for reflection on their participation in the management of the political transition in Chad on the one hand, and the observation of government action on the other.



LAWYERS' POOL

In order to conduct strategic litigation at the national and international levels, the coalitions establish pools of lawyers, who participate in handling the filing of complaints about human rights violations. In addition, the lawyers contribute to the preparation of reports documenting abuses committed against human rights defenders and TLP members.

EMERGENCY FUND

During the year 2021, an emergency and protection fund for the activists of Tournons La Page was activated 14 times for eight of the ten African coalitions. It relies on a network of 94 lawyers, 10 protection referents and allows the documentation of human rights violations in Guinea, Chad, Niger and Ivory Coast. Material assistance was provided for activists in danger and their families, as well as care for those injured or tortured by the police. In addition, it was used to strengthen the security of national coalition offices.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS



Capacity building and governance

This year has been critical in strengthening TLP's organization. This area, especially with the restrictions on action and travel related to COVID-19, has been a particular focus of the International Secretariat and governance bodies. This component aims to consolidate TLP's governance bodies and move from an informal campaign to a democratically functioning movement.

GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRATIC LIFE

In this year 2021, the governance of the movement has been fed by monthly meetings of the Steering Committee via virtual channels. In addition, a Communication Commission has been set up as well as sub-regional consultations. The Bureau has grown in size and is fully involved in the daily political management of the association, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary. The establishment of a movement implies the construction of collective interventions, based on activism (action and denunciation), service (support and protection) and mobilization (gathering, solidarity and exchanges). These three characteristics remain anchored within TLP and allow its development as a structure with clear and operational governance. In this phase, given the political instability and problems related to travel restrictions, the organizational strengthening consultancy mission led by Paul SAMANGASSOU (in conjunction with Secours Catholique) focused on supporting the International Secretariat in developing sustainable governance.

AUTONOMY AND TRANSFER

The month of July was marked by the transfer of the human resources and the office of the International Secretariat of TLP, outside of Secours Catholique. This is a major step in the evolution of the movement, which has gained a lot of independence of action. The International Secretariat is now financially and legally autonomous. This process has allowed the implementation of a plurality of concrete activities, such as :

- Capitalization of TLP's coordination experience within Secours Catholique
- Contract with an accounting firm and work on a procedures manual (with the support of Secours Catholique)
- Finalization of the website and secure communication tools for the whole staff
- Equipment and rental of offices located in premises sublet by the [Centre de Recherche et d'Information pour le Développement](#) (CRID) and in contact with several other associations present in the same building ([Coordination Sud](#), [Forim](#) or [Transparency International](#))
- Possibility of recruiting new employees for the beginning of 2022: Administrative and financial manager, Communication officer...

STRUCTURING AND STRENGTHENING THE TLP NETWORK

Tournons La Page has been considerably structured and mobilized during the year 2021. The focus has been on consolidating the existing network - 10 coalitions in Africa and 1 in Europe - which favors the construction of common visions and actions.

The International Secretariat has joined four international networks that allow it to bring the subject of democratic changeover in Africa to the following bodies: [CIVICUS](#), the [European Network for Central Africa](#) (EurAc), the CRID, and the [Plateforme Droits de l'Homme](#) (PDH).

TLP has also developed many strategic alliances with African networks to amplify its action, such as [Africans Rising](#) and [AfricTivistes](#). It is with their support that the Cotonou Citizen Summit was organized, allowing TLP to make itself known at the sub-regional level. This shows the capacity of attraction of TLP which was welcomed with great enthusiasm and plays a driving role.

As far as recruitment is concerned, the International Secretariat has grown considerably since by the end of 2021, it had three full-time employees (1 in Paris and 2 in Niamey). A fourth recruitment (administrative and financial manager) has been launched for a job opening in February 2022. A person in charge of communication and network animation is expected in May 2022, in order to further professionalize TLP's communication. Thus, by July 2022, it will be composed of five full-time employees (Project Manager, Program Manager, Administrative and Financial Manager, Communications Officer, Executive Secretary), supported by an intern and a volunteer in civic service.

In Africa, at least five coalitions are able to pay for some or all of the staff dedicated to the activities of Tournons La Page.

In Europe, the TLP coalition is gradually beginning to be structured with regular meetings. In particular, the possibility of joint advocacy is being considered (for example, the situation in Chad was the subject of a meeting bringing together nearly thirty European parliamentarians). However, this coalition is still in its infancy and therefore needs to be further developed, with a particular focus on the diasporas so that they can lead it in the years to come.

It should be noted that two major meetings took place in the second half of 2021. The first one aimed at working on a common document on the relations between Africa and France, the second one allowed to exchange on the case of the Ivory Coast as well as on the issues of electoral biometrics.

Also, thanks to the support of the consultant Paul SAMANGASSOU, two strategic notes were produced on the shortcomings of TLP in terms of its governance and construction: the need for internal democracy and the fragility of member organizations. Strategic workshops to strengthen coalitions were to be organized in Togo, Guinea, Chad and Cameroon, but given the political instability and the health crisis, only a workshop to revive the governance of TLP-Cameroon was organized in October 2021.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

In addition, Tournons La Page is working to launch four new coalitions in the following countries: Benin, Mali, Uganda, and Sierra Leone. This new expansion of the movement would allow the movement to expand into English-speaking countries.

Finally, in many countries and at the international level, TLP has succeeded in gaining new memberships in the movement, as evidenced by its membership in the [Oxfam](#) network, negotiated at the end of 2021 and effective at the beginning of 2022. The collaboration at both the international and national levels with the [National Democratic Institute](#) (NDI) is also a notable advance and a strong recognition of the relevance of the fight for democratic change.

FINANCIAL REPORT



Tournons La Page is committed to having a healthy and efficient financial management and to accompany its coalitions in this sense as well. To this end, the Larvor firm assists us in the daily accounting management (social, half-yearly review) and is in charge of closing the association's accounts. Its expertise is complemented by project audits. TLP's resources and budgets have increased by more than a third in one year, from 296 k€ to 402 k€.

The management of TLP is organized on a three-year cycle, with the structural grants of Secours Catholique and the advocacy support project of Misereor as foundations.

In this year 2021, Tournons La Page has developed several new financial partnerships, reinforcing the three-year budget and the legitimacy of the movement: Open Society European Policy Institute, Rosa Luxembourg Foundation, CCFD-Terre Solidaire. Misereor has become a direct partner of Tournons La Page, in consultation with Secours Catholique, which had previously piloted this grant. The "Protection" project is entering a second phase that will end in April 2023. Interesting prospects are expected for 2022 with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the [Fondation de France](#), Coordination Sud (Frio Funds), the participation in two projects of the [Agence Française de Développement](#) (AFD) as operators of the CRID and the Human Rights Platform.

- **90 k€** were given to coalitions in Africa to provide structural support to the collectives for one year.
- **117 k€** were used for the permanent costs of the International Secretariat (HR, office rent...).
- Finally, **146 k€** have been earmarked for the implementation of common actions (reports, advocacy, events) or field activities whose expenses are directly carried out by the international secretariat (training workshops, meetings of lawyers or women leaders, activation of the emergency fund...).

Structural support for coalitions, cross-cutting actions and International Secretariat costs

• Cross-cutting actions	146 396 €
• Burundi	5 000 €
• Cameroon	5 000 €
• Congo	10 000 €
• Ivory Coast	8 000 €
• Gabon	7 000 €
• Guinea	10 000 €
• Niger	15 000 €
• Democratic Republic of Congo	15 000 €
• International Secretariat	117 915 €
• Chad	5 000 €
• Togo	8 000 €

TOTAL BUDGET FOR PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY TOURNONS LA PAGE AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL FOR THE YEAR 2021	402 374 €
Budget directly managed by the Association Tournons La Page (TLP) for the year 2021	288 374 €
Major projects and funding partners for the year 2021:	378 000 €
Three-year TLP program - Secours Catholique	200 000 €
Misereor - Advocacy support	44 000 €
Voice - Protected and united for democracy [Agir ensemble pour les droits humains as holder of the Tournons La Page project].	114 000 €
CCFD-Terre Solidaire: Support for the Tournons La Page 2020-2022 program	20.000 €
Other donors (OSEPI, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation)	21 966 €
Membership fees	2408 €

REVIEW AND PROSPECTS



In seven years, Tournons La Page has grown from an informal collective of four coalitions implementing local citizen actions to an international citizen movement of ten African coalitions and one European coalition, capable of achieving specific and concerted results, with operational governance and international coordination serving the coalitions. The second year of the three-year plan 2020-2022 has allowed the coalitions to continue their activities, despite the health crisis and the climate of insecurity. Overall, the results are positive in terms of documentation of human rights violations and the production of expertise on democracy in Africa.

01 Capacity building

The skill-building component of Tournons La Page is well underway, with training provided to community groups, particularly in election observation. In doing so, they aspire to become key players in the promotion of democracy and good governance where the civil and political rights of citizens are preserved.

02 Citizen mobilization

In light of the dramatic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and the severe repression of human rights defenders, citizen mobilization activities have been significantly limited, with the health crisis serving as a justification for closing off civic space and significantly curtailing basic freedoms. However, an effort has been made to mobilize at the local level, reaching out to marginalized populations and those living in remote areas to raise awareness of Tournons La Page and the importance of engaging, especially at the local level. This process should be continued in order to expand the network and become an influential counter-power.

03 Advocacy

Advocacy activities were carried out and the objective of conducting strategic trials at the national and international levels was achieved.

The year 2022 will be a pivotal year to conclude this three-year program. The network continues to grow, whether by integrating new networks or expanding with the addition of new coalitions. The scope of Tournons La Page will go beyond French-speaking Africa to English-speaking countries, starting with Uganda. Moreover, with its recognition on the European and international scene, TLP can hope to count on the support of new partners who are convinced by the struggle led by TLP members and who would like to join the adventure in order to contribute to the entrenchment of democracy in Africa as well as the promotion and preservation of the rule of law and human rights. Tournons La Page will have to redouble its efforts to counter the democratic backsliding in many African countries, which are in the grip of a deep internal political crisis where dissenting voices are silenced.

PRESS ARTICLES

During the course of 2021, TLP has increased its visibility in the media. Today, journalists increasingly refer to the actions that are being carried out in each of the countries where TLP is active, but also come directly to seek information from the coalitions and the International Secretariat. TLP is thus becoming a hub of information.

In this area as well, TLP's leaders ensure the accuracy of the information collected in order to avoid any manipulation and fake news that could discredit the movement or its members.

Key facts:

- 42 press articles directly mentioning "Tournons La Page"
- Leading international media: Deutsche Welle and RFI
- Valuable associative relays: CRID and Amnesty International
- 9 national coalitions concerned by press coverage

Below are the articles listed.

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Pour l'alternance démocratique
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Tournons La Page (TLP) is an international citizens' movement of more than 250 organizations that leads and relays actions to promote democratic change in Africa.



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