



AIIC Africa Newsletter



Kampala, July 2019

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Jarju Kebba, Edwin Ocloo, Victor Imboua Niava, Aatsa Atogho and Loise Kibera

Dear all,

AIIC has a great culture and history of volunteerism and its success as the leading global interpreters' association depends on its membership. We begin this newsletter by expressing our special gratitude to members who continue to selflessly give their time and expertise to the Association as well as participate in delegations, committees, groups or activities (surveys, discussions, meetings, training, mentoring, etc.), in person or remotely.

Volunteering offers an opportunity for networking and giving back to the profession. Serving as a member or chair of an AIIC delegation, group or committee develops our relational and management skills. Taking an interest in AIIC activities, beyond the 'blue book', provides insights on good practice enabling us to adapt to changing market trends and competition. We, therefore, call on more members to join the group of devoted volunteers.



Mentoring - Kader Ouattara, Juste-Blaise Konan and Paulin Djité

This newsletter presents regional projects whose success will depend on your commitment. It also provides highlights of events taking place in the Association globally, including PRIMS in August and the AB meeting in July.

We welcome the new faces who have joined our ranks since October 2018 to date: *Armel Fosse Fosse, Gnima Sarr Seye, Ian Thorpe, Kekeli Adokoe Akwei, Leonor Roque Van Niekerk, Mervat Hassan, Nathalie Heynderickx, Paul Julien Braga, Stephen Ajagbe, Taha Yassa Amer* and *Weru Macharia*. As you will notice from the statistics presented in the newsletter, there has been an upward trend in our membership numbers over the last ten years.

We conclude our editorial on a melancholic note. It has been a tough first half-year for us after losing several colleagues and most recently, Jacques Coly. We pay tribute to our dearly departed in a special supplement.

Sincerely,

Sylvia

on behalf of the Bureau

E-mail: afr-regionalbureau@aiic.net



Organising - Faiza Kacha, Fernanda Jones, Kenza Mahlous and Yvette Illas

Photo Credits:

Aatsa Atogho, Ahmed Ben Ameer, AIIC Secretariat, Bruno Oliveira, Emmanuel Ayuk, Joseph Rurangwa, Justine Ndongo-Keller, Kenza Mahlous, Micheline Ntchandeu, Paul Koranteng, Straktur at German Wikipedia and Sylvia Amisi.

The History of Our Profession

The Nuremberg Exhibition in Africa

The AIIC Africa and AIIC Netherlands Regions together with the AIIC Nuremberg Group are collaborating with the Registrar of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, to organise an exhibition of the Nuremberg panels on Multilingual Justice at the Peace Museum in Freetown, Sierra Leone in October.

This exhibition will compare and contrast the Nuremberg trials and those in international tribunals, with a special focus on SCSL to begin with, as well as spotlight interpreters who provided their services.

The focus on the role played by interpreters on the African continent fits in with one of the region's projects that consists of documenting the history of conference interpreting in Africa. We intend to stage the exhibition in other countries, especially those that have endured the pain of war and attempted conflict resolution. The record of post-traumatic stress disorders afflicting interpreters who served in various post-conflict and transitional justice settings also needs to be shared.



Courthouse in Nuremberg

The regional project will highlight the role of local and national languages in achieving peace and justice through interpreting. Our appreciation goes to Sylvie Nossereau, the AB member of the Netherlands Region for initiating this collaboration; Elke Limberger-Katsumi, the lead author and curator of the Nuremberg Exhibition featuring the Nuremberg interpreters, for developing the storyline; Emmanuel Ayuk, Justine Ndongo-Keller, Martyn Swain and Sylvia Amisi for their contribution in the form of research and reviewing the banner text.

Volunteers are needed for subsequent phases of the regional project.



Marjolaine Escande, Roland Ngong, Elisabeth Kouaovi, Oumy Tall, Wendy Durand and Moudachirou Gbadamassi

Round Table Discussion on Interpreting in Tribunals, Geneva, Switzerland

Justine Ndongo-Keller, the former Chief of the Language Services Section of the ICTR will represent the Africa Region in a panel discussion on October 3 organised by the Swiss Region within the context of Nuremberg Trials. Panellists from the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL), the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the AIIC Legal Interpreting Committee will also be present.



Fen Ngu and Lamine Kane

IT Matters

Website under construction



The Bureau is pleased to report that in January 2019 the Africa Region's website project received partial funding from AIIC Central together with 4 other regions which are part of this joint initiative.

The parent theme has already been designed by the developer and is live on a staging website for the regional webmasters to give their feedback and make necessary adjustments.

On the downside, there is data scraping setback that has put a spanner in the works. The Bureau will make an informed decision and keep you posted.

The next key step is developing Africa-specific content for our aiic.africa website. **Guidelines will be circulated to all members who are willing to participate in this collective effort.**

New IT Provider

AIIC is on the cusp of a new IT era and has signed a contract with a new provider. ***If you can lend your expertise to test the IT environment and attend workshops beginning mid-July, contact us as soon as possible.*** Ephrem Kamanzi, the Region's Webmaster, is already on board.

New Visual Identity

The AB's Brand and Visibility Group has created new templates for our logos, business cards and CVs.

Contact Sarah Dairo, the Regional Secretary.



Highlights of the World Sectoral Meeting in Geneva, May 4

Handing over

Accolades were given to the outgoing ND for a sterling job negotiating a new contract despite numerous hurdles.



We congratulate the new ND on its election.

1. Angelika Eberdhart -Swiss Region (Member)
2. Francesca Gagliano – US Region (Coordinator)
3. Jonathan Sanders -Swiss Region (Member)
4. Leila Safi – Arab Countries Region (Member)
5. Mare Gordillo – South America (Member)
6. Olivier Bonifacio – Asia Pacific (Member)
7. Pablo Alvar Rozas- Swiss Region (Member)

Status of the new UNCEB-AIIC Agreement



Who's in, who's out?

Opted in	Opted out
UN Secretariat (through the Office of Legal Affairs), ILO, WMO, WIPO, IMO, WHO (excluding WHO Regional Office for the Americas - AMRO), WFP, ITU and UNESCO.	PAHO (Pan-American Health Organisation) UNOPS UNDP

Transition period



Pablo Alvar Rozas, Martyn Swain and Emmanuel Ayuk

The ratification of the Agreement ([UN-AIIC Agreement 2019](#)) will take time and updates on the status will be sent to members. Meanwhile, any UN organisation that has not opted out is deemed to be in and should recruit in accordance with the Agreement. If you are contacted directly by a UN organisation or an interpretation agency to quote for conference interpreting services for a UN entity governed by the Agreement, do not accept to do so and remind them of their obligations.

The new ND's main focus will be to get the buy-in of UN Funds and Programmes so that they ultimately opt in to the Agreement as well as remind organisations to ratify it as soon as possible

In case of doubt...



Do not hesitate to contact the Region's Professional Delegations - UNON-Chantal Mariotte & Keguro Joe Muhindi; WHO AFRO-Emmanuel Ayuk & Hortense Mbea; UNECA-Emmanuel Petros & Mesfin Wolde-Giorghis - and the ND for any queries on the application of the Agreement or to report a violation to the Agreement.

A meeting of the Agreement's focal points (PDs) and UN representatives under a consultative mechanism is likely to take place in the last quarter of 2019.

We thank Hortense for taking up the role of a member of the WHO-AFRO PD. Emmanuel Ayuk is holding fort until other **volunteers join**. [See Rules of Procedure governing PDs and UN Sectoral Meetings](#).

Sensitisation on applying the Agreement



Momodou Lamin Yaffa and Vidya Diaité

AIIC Brochure

The ND and the Communications Department at the AIIC Secretariat are developing a brochure on the Agreement.

Get to know the Agreement Project

To enhance the shareability of key information on the Agreement, the Africa Region will create content and a doodle video for interpreters and meeting planners.

Any volunteers for this project?

Takeaways from the WS

Regional Agreements

The universality of the Agreement is key and as such, regional agreements, proposed by some regions, would be a race to the bottom. They would have a spillover effect and erode the working conditions for interpreters worldwide.

Rather than sacrificing quality to influence the market by underquoting, we should raise market rates through an arsenal of arguments presented in well-thought-out and regular communication campaigns, increase our membership numbers and promote standards.

Research

A case was made to conduct new research on the impact of long hours of interpreting on interpreters' health given the dearth of empirical evidence (1958 study). There is a clear link between the number of hours worked and productivity. With longer hours, productivity tails off among meeting participants as well as in the booth.

On the sidelines of the WS

AIIC Africa and Arab Countries Regions' Representatives meet

The UNECAPD briefed the Arab countries colleagues on progress made addressing a recruitment matter. The AB members from both regions also discussed issues of mutual interest.



Sache briefs interpreters in Malabo.

50th Anniversary of the UNCEB-AIIC Agreement





The AIIC-UN Agreement is turning 50,
so come on board — let's push the boat out and celebrate!

12 July 2019 19:00 — 21:00

Bateau Genève, Quai Gustave-Ador 1, Geneva

The occasion will also mark the launch of the book
The Birth of a Profession

RSVP
by 28 June:
AIIC Secretariat
info@aiic.net
022 908 15 40

ExCo will hold a commemorative event on the evening of July 12 in Geneva. About 150 AIIC members, secretariat staff and representatives of UN organisations are invited. *Birth of a Profession*, the English version of the AIIC book *Naissance d'une Profession* updated and translated by AIIC's Groupe Histoire, will also be launched.

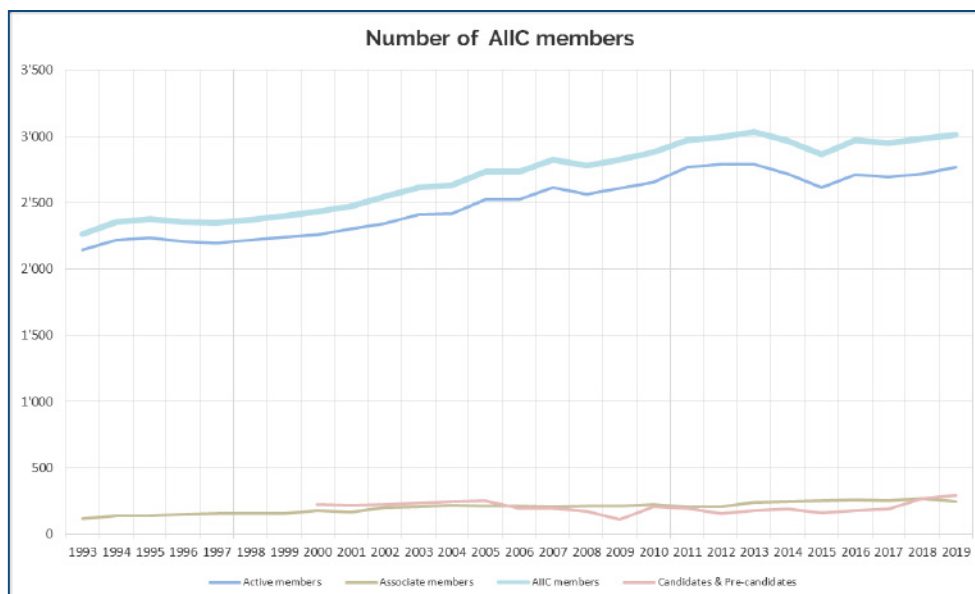
Hats off to Awa Coulibaly and Sache Ngwa!

The region wishes you a fulfilling retirement after dedicated service to the African Development Bank. May your new journey be filled with joy!

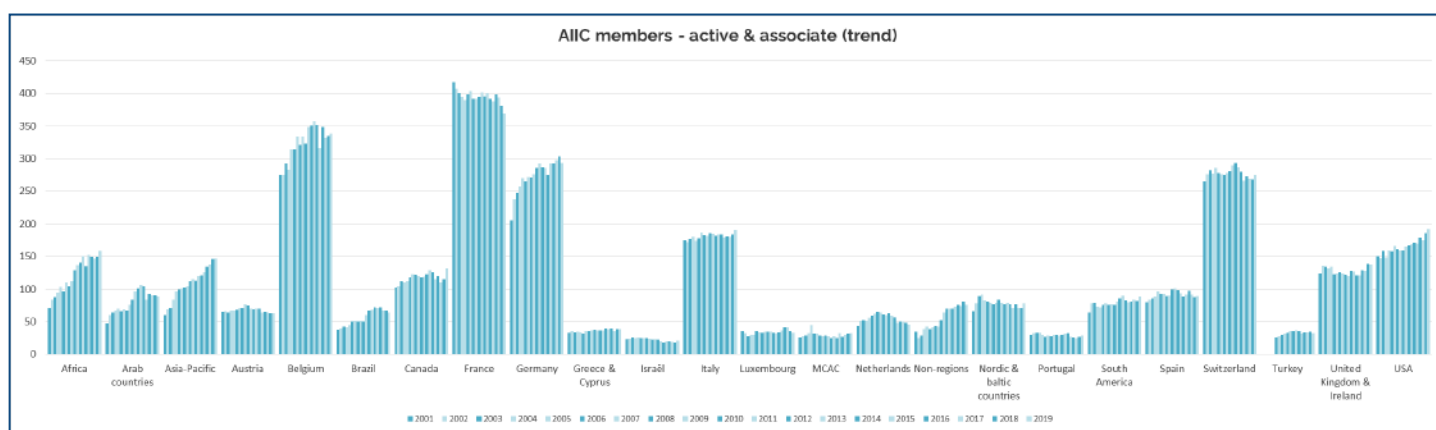


Victor Imboua Niava, Awa Coulibaly and Oriane Divoux

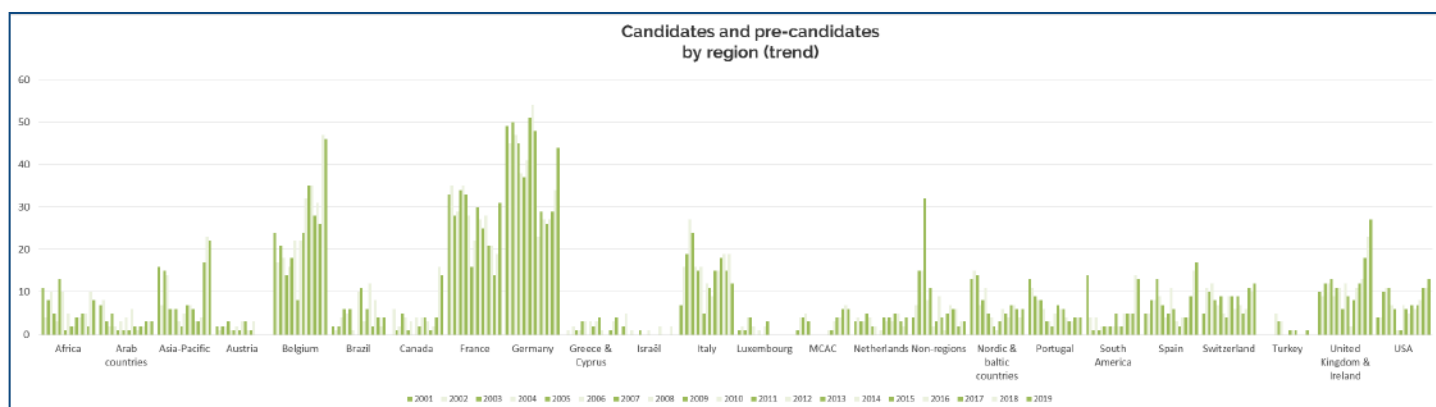
Membership Statistics for the Africa Region and AII World (2001-2019)



- Currently in AII, there are 3,011 AII members, the second highest figure ever since 2013 (3,032).



- The 4 regions with the highest number of members are France, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland with 400, 384, 337 and 287 members respectively.
- In the last 10 years in the Africa Region's membership has been steadily growing Africa Region to reach 164 in May 2019, with a slight decline in 2016 and 2017.



- There has been an increase in pre-candidates and candidates. The Region had 10 and 8 candidates in 2018 and 2019 respectively (the 2019 figure is provisional may change at the end of the year).
- Overall, the majority of members fall within the age bracket of 50 to 59 years, followed by those in the 40-49, 60-69 and 27 to 39, 70-79 and 80 years and above brackets respectively.
- In the Africa Region, most members are within the 60-69 years age group, followed by those aged 50-59, 40-49, 70-79 and 27 to 39 years respectively.
- In general, the highest number of reminders for payment of dues are sent on 15 June. In 2018, the number of reminders dropped by a record 50%.

News from National Associations

Bref rapport sur l'Assemblée générale de l'Association des interprètes et traducteurs du Ghana (GATI)

L'association des interprètes et traducteurs du Ghana (GATI) a tenu son Assemblée générale annuelle le 16 février 2019 à la maison française située dans l'enceinte de l'Université du Ghana, Legon à Accra.

L'AG a été l'occasion pour les membres (52 inscrits jusqu'ici) d'apprécier le bilan du bureau exécutif mis en place en février 2017 après un an de transition qui avait permis de redonner vie à cette association créée depuis 1992.

L'assemblée a félicité l'équipe dirigeante pour le bilan de son premier mandat qualifié de très positif et encourageant, et a renouvelé sa confiance au président de l'exécutif et toute l'équipe pour un nouveau mandat de deux ans.

Le président, monsieur Senam Etse Kumudzro a dans son message de remerciement aux membres, placé le second mandat de son équipe sous le signe du professionnalisme et de la sensibilisation des organisateurs de conférence contre la prolifération du marché gris au Ghana.

Le bureau exécutif dont le mandat a été renouvelé est composé de Senam Etse Kumudzro (président), Edem Glitse

(secrétaire), Timothy Kwakuvi Wodokpoe (Trésorier), Charles Sefa (vice-président-translation), Lawrence Donkor (vice président-interprétation) et Harold Assou-Dodji (chargé de la communication et des affaires sociales).

Dix (10) interprètes et traducteurs seniors dont certains sont des formateurs ont été honorés par l'Association.



Daniel Mboua Yogo and Filipe Jarro



GATI Members at their Annual General Meeting

Upcoming Events

AB Meeting, 11 to 14 July

The AB has a full agenda. It will consider regional, group, committee and project team reports. It will discuss its organisation of work, in general, and its role in relation to AIIC's Strategy until 2021 and beyond, in particular.

Presentations will be made on a social media policy, research on acoustic shocks, the introduction of a research grant and the Independent Assembly Bureau.

During its joint session with ExCo, the AB will meet the new IT provider for an introduction and demonstration.

The AB Member will give the Region a detailed report.

PRIMS goes to Montreal in August!

The next PRIMS meeting and related events are slated for 22 to 27 August 2019.

On 22 August, there will be a session on Canadian French, followed by a discussion on Indigenous Languages and Interpretation.

On 23 August, two panel discussions will take place. The first is on Interpreters' Health and Safety and the Law and the second on Remote Simultaneous Interpreting and platforms.

The actual PRIMS meeting will take place on 24 and 25 August. A joint session on defining, measuring and selling quality and the role of continuous professional development (CPD) will be held with the AIIC Staff Interpreters' Committee.

26 and 27 August will be devoted to the "Know Your Worth Seminar: Understanding Marketing and Negotiating for Interpreters" for anyone who wishes to improve branding prospects and negotiation skills in the market.

Click here to [register](#). Get more information on the [PRIMS Montreal Meeting](#) and the [side events](#).

If you plan to go to Montreal, contact Aatsa Atogho, the PRIMS Focal Point and the Bureau as soon as possible.

We appeal to more staff interpreters to join the AIIC Staff Interpreters' Committee/Comité des permanents. You are an instrumental part of AIIC.



Mesfin Wolde-Giorghis, Abdallah Regragui and Muteba Kasanga

AIIC Africa Regional Meeting, 2019

Our regional meeting will most likely be held in October 2019. More details on the dates and venue to follow.

AIIC Assembly, January 2021

ExCo will make its decision known on the venue of the Assembly in July.

The Bureau hopes to see you at these events.



Micheline Ntchandeu, Malick Sy, Justine Ndongo-Keller, Abdourahmane Diop and Lemine Biye

In memory of our departed colleagues:

2019: Cheikh Hamet Dia, Donatila Paul Mwaituka, Esmat Orensa, Gachi de Luis, Jacques Coly, Jean Pierre Pama, Maulo Dombaxi and Suzan Abdul Farag.

2018: Alieu jallow, Anne Behle and Lewis Moutou
2016: Achieng Oganga
2014: Ernest Kong'ani and Salah Asli

Appreciation

To the management and staff of institutions in the Africa Region

No words could ever express our appreciation for your support after the passing of our friends and colleagues. We are deeply grateful.

Interpreters and Translators

- African Development Bank
- African Union
- African Union Advisory Board on Corruption
- Pan African Parliament
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- United Nations Office at Nairobi,
- and others.

To interpreters and translators

We express our indebtedness to all of you for your show of solidarity and support.



Memorial gatherings held over the last 4 months awakened poignant memories of our dearly departed. These few touching tributes say it all.

Hommage à Jacques Coly

Oh que c'est triste! Un homme racé, d'une grande bonté vient de nous quitter. De la CACL, à la DN, Jacques Étienne Coly s'est beaucoup donné pour la profession. Généreux, il a contribué à la formation de bon nombre de nos collègues. Personnellement je lui dois, ainsi qu'à mes autres parrains, d'être membre de l'AiIC. Repose en paix Grand Jacques, comme j'aimais t'appeler, en souvenir de cet autre Grand de la musique qu'était Brel.

Tu vas nous manquer!

Que Dieu exauce mes prières de cousine à plaisanterie pular pour le "prince" diola que tu fus.

Qu'Allah SWT rétribue tes actes de bonté et te fasse demeurer dans ses jardins.

Mes condoléances à tous les collègues et à sa famille éplorée !

Hajaa Fatimata Tall Dieye



Remembering Cheikh

Cheikh endeared himself to so many of us at the ICTR that he came to be fondly known as "Le plus camerounais des senegalais". Unknown to us, he was managing several blows he had taken in life. This time he did not make it. He was lowered into the bowels of mother earth. The cool colleague with whom I shared office on 3rd floor before we were promoted to the 6th floor is gone and I know that beneath the warmth and gait he exuded, there was much more. While we can, let us take care of each other.

A lotta continua!

Aatsa Atogho

Tribute to Donatila Paul Mwaituka

Donatila Paul Mwaituka started working with African Union in 2004 when Kiswahili was introduced as one of the official languages and later at Pan African Parliament from 2005. She was a calm, loving and polite lady. She symbolised humility and a deep sense of responsibility. May the Almighty God rest her soul in eternal peace!

Vidah Mutasa



Tribute to Esmat

I have been asked to say a few words about our beloved colleague Esmat, whom we so cruelly lost on 10th of March, along with two other colleagues, Susan whom many of you knew extremely well and Gachi, who sounds like someone I for one would have liked to have met. Our profession is full of these wonderful, mercurial, exotic humans and we are at times privileged to cross paths with them, and best of all bond with them. I am so thankful to have met Esmat and to have shared precious moments with her. My most intimate were in fact during these last March Sitzings – her two other ‘sisters’, Faiza and Kenza were not here, and both she and I spent much of our free time together. I became an honorary sister. We did what she loved best, chat, shop and share a good glass of red wine. We spoke about absolutely everything, from the world crisis to bathing costumes called miracle suits, because well, they perform miracles. She was going to wear hers at the Cairo coutry club, and boy would she have looked sensational. She was very funny and laughed very easily. Esmat was a strong woman, a single mother, who brought up a son, a son many say is a very fine man, an architect and a musician, Khaled. She has grandchildren she adored and spoiled rotten with wonderful gifts she took a long time choosing. She was always exquisitely dressed, and just laughed at those who felt she was coquette beyond. She

was a beautiful woman, inside and out, and she dressed the part. Sociable, extremely well mannered and gracious, with an enormous heart – full of joy, and love. A true professional, I so admired her, a long standing member of these extremely proficient multilingual Arabic women interpreters, travelling the world. You are a very special group of women. Ours is a strange, nomadic, itinerant life. We need the few, truly meaningful connections we can make. I always looked forward to seeing her, and it just made my work assignment that much better, to know she would be there at the end of the day. She left us doing what she most loved to do. Working and travelling between two assignments. She adored her family in Cairo, and if it meant travelling an extra few hours to be able to see them and share with them the abundance of gifts she always took back, then so be it. She had married not too long ago. There was no way Esmat was going to be left on the shelf. Definitely not a wallflower our Esmat – always the first to dance. I took the shuttle from the Premier to the Mall of Africa, and the young driver, Phakiso, said ‘she was a good friend of mine. She was teaching me French.’

We are that much poorer for her leaving, but so immeasurably grateful Esmat was a part of our lives. We love you and shall always miss you. God bless you.

Roberta Fox



Eloge à Gachi et à Esmat

Gachi était la fille de Luis de Luis et la belle fille de la célèbre actrice et chanteuse espagnole, Aurora Bautista. Gachi et moi nous sommes rencontrées à Abidjan dans les années 80 lors d'une conférence de la FAO et nous sommes devenues amies, nous nous perdions de vue mais nous nous retrouvions toujours. Gachi était mexicaine, originaire de Merida. Gachi était cubaine, américaine, italienne, camerounaise, citoyenne du monde, grande amie de Fidel Castro et du Pape François. Gachi aimait la vie, c'était une aventurière des temps modernes, au sens positif du terme. Elle aimait découvrir des contrées nouvelles, des saveurs nouvelles, rencontrer des personnes nouvelles, des personnes de tous horizons, Gachi aimait découvrir et encore découvrir, elle était curieuse de tout, elle croquait la vie à belles dents, Gachi était un esprit libre, elle était gaie et enjouée et irradiait la joie de vivre. Lors d'un de ses passages à Yaoundé au Cameroun, nous sommes allées dans mon village maternel à Baliama, à 120 km environ de Yaoundé, au cœur de la forêt équatoriale, elle a rencontré ma mère, mes grands-parents, mes oncles, mes tantes, s'est allongée sur le lit en bambou qui se trouvait dans la cuisine enfumée de ma tante Sabine, à l'ombre des baobabs et des cactus géants, Gachi était émerveillée. Ça lui rappelait un peu son pays natal.

Nous nous sommes retrouvées à plusieurs reprises à Nairobi, Gachi était heureuse, belle, radieuse, elle avait trouvé l'amour en la personne de notre collègue Phil Smith, j'étais heureuse pour elle, pour eux. Vous vous souvenez sûrement du message émouvant de Phil lors de sa disparition.

Nos dernières retrouvailles datent de juillet 2016, à Addis Abeba lors de la grande Conférence sur le financement du développement. Le dernier soir nous sommes allés dîner dans un restaurant éthiopien, Gachi, Phil, Fernando Nunez et moi, Fernando qui avait envoyé un véhicule l'attendre à l'aéroport ce jour fatidique où elle nous a quittés, ne sachant pas que Gachi avait déjà tiré sa révérence sans crier gare, nous laissant complètement dévastés.

Mais comment parler de Gachi sans parler d'Esmat, «la grande Comtesse», comme l'avait baptisé Roland Ngong? Esmat l'élégance personnifiée, Esmat à la générosité et à la gentillesse sans bornes, Esmat au grand cœur, Esmat qui parlait de son fils comme d'une icône. J'ai appelé Esmat ce matin-là, maintes fois, au lieu de la sonnerie du téléphone, j'ai eu un bourdonnement bizarre, je lui ai envoyé un sms, la suppliant de me rappeler, j'ai attendu, mais en vain, elle n'a pas rappelé, elle ne devait plus jamais rappeler, elle était partie.



Esmat, Gachi, deux grandes dames, altruistes, optimistes, deux professionnelles amoureuses de leur métier, deux professionnelles qui ont donné à notre profession ses lettres de noblesse.

Gachi, Esmat, je remercie la Providence de vous avoir mises sur mon chemin. Votre départ brutal, tragique, prématurée me plonge dans une tristesse et une peine profonde qu'il est difficile d'exprimer. Il réveille en moi le souvenir d'autres amis et collègues partis tout aussi brutalement. Toutefois, je me garderai de devenir neurasthénique, je vous dois bien ça. Vous me manquez beaucoup et je sais que vous manquez autant à vos anciens collègues, à votre famille professionnelle, et indubitablement à tous vos amis, à vos familles, à vos proches à qui, tous ici réunis, nous pensons fortement en ce moment, et qui, nous adressons nos condoléances les plus sincères et le témoignage de notre sympathie.

Pour me consoler de votre absence, je me dis que comme des soldats, vous êtes tombées sur le champ de bataille, en route pour faire ce que vous aimiez faire, exercer votre profession, l'interprétation de conférence. Je vous imagine vous tenant la main dans cet avion, en ce jour fatidique de votre passage vers la gloire, vers l'éternité. Je vous imagine assises auprès de Dieu, auprès de Allah, souriantes, heureuses, et nous adressant ces paroles tirées d'un poème de Saint Augustin que j'ai un peu modifié pour la circonstance, je pense qu'il ne m'en tiendra pas rigueur. Le poème s'intitule :

« NOUS VIVONS TOUJOURS

L'amour ne disparaît jamais
La mort n'est rien
Nous sommes seulement passées dans la pièce d'à côté.
Nous sommes nous et vous êtes vous
Ce que nous étions les uns pour les autres
Nous le sommes toujours.
Donnez- nous le nom que vous nous avez toujours donné
Parlez- nous comme vous l'avez toujours fait
Ne changez rien
Ne prenez pas un air triste ou solennel
Continuez à rire de ce qui nous faisait rire
Souriez, pensez à nous, priez pour nous
Que nos noms soient prononcés à la maison, en cabine, comme ils l'ont toujours été.
La vie signifie tout ce qu'elle a toujours signifié
Elle est ce qu'elle a toujours été
Le fil n'est pas coupé.
Pourquoi serions-nous hors de vos pensées simplement parce que nous sommes hors de votre vue?
Nous vous attendons
Nous ne sommes pas loin
Nous sommes juste de l'autre côté du chemin.
Vous voyez, tout est bien »

Merci Esmat, merci Gachi, en effet tout est bien, vous avez pleinement vécu vos vies sur terre, aujourd'hui, je dois accepter votre mort et vous laisser partir, mais je voudrais vous sachez que je ne me préoccupe plus de l'endroit où j'irai après ma mort car je sais que de l'autre côté du chemin, dans la pièce d'à côté j'ai des amis/es, des parents qui m'attendent, dans un monde de beauté, de lumière, de paix et de sérénité permanente.
Reposez en paix et que la terre de vos ancêtres vous soit légère.

Justine Ndongo-Keller

Hommage à Lewis Moutou

Maître Lewis Moutou n'est plus.
J'ai eu la chance, le privilège de connaître et de travailler avec Lewis pendant quelques années.
Malheureusement, nous nous étions perdus de vue depuis quelque temps déjà.
Juriste de haut vol, interprète impeccable, surtout gentleman à l'ancienne, Lewis avait un sens de l'humour féroce et une désinvolture chic qui le rendait si sympathique à tous.
Taquin, très 'British', il aimait notre profession et restait attentif à son évolution.
Il était très attaché à son île où il a trouvé le repos.
Au revoir Maître, avec Janina, ton épouse, nous sommes plusieurs à garder un souvenir ému de ta gentillesse et de ton élégance. Fais un paisible voyage.

Emmanuel Petros

Tribute to departed colleagues

I want to begin with a quote by a Dutch author, Henri Nouwen, who wrote:

"When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares."

This quote so aptly describes the profound meaning of today's memorial service.

We could all have taken in the pain of the passing of our colleagues, sitting in our individual corners;

We could all have cried individually in our loneliness;

Instead, we decided to get together, as true friends who care, to share our pain for the loss of our friends;

Thank you, Yvette, Sylvia, Faiza, Kenza, Roberta, Fernanda, Emmanuel, Rui, for taking the lead role in organising this ceremony;

Yours, ours, I should say, is an act of true friendship;
And from where they are,



Our friends, Esmat Orensa, Susan Abdul Farag, Gachi de Luis of the fateful Ethiopian Airliner,

Our other friends and colleagues Salah Asli, Ernest Kong'ani, Alieu Jallow, Achieng Oganga and Donatila Mwaituka who passed on some months and years back,

Know that we do care for them, that we are true friends.

May their souls rest in peace!

I had special connection with Esmat, and I have this to say to her in French; a joke she, Lisette and I shared:

*Esmat, te souviens-tu, du Noyau Dur ?
Jamais je n'ai oublié le Noyau Dur,
Mais, hélas, toi, tu as quitté le Noyau Dur,
A jamais,
Mais jamais je n'oublierai le Noyau Dur,
Repose en paix, Esmat !*

Amadou Bissiri



Appreciation - Alieu Jallow

My Mum and the rest of us have been overwhelmed by the love and support shown by interpreters, ECOWAS and the Pan-African Parliament community. Please extend our gratitude.

Even near the end, Dad would always quote Alexander Pope's 'Hope springs eternal in every human breast.' A fighter and optimist until the end!

Maimouna Jallow Vuiart

Best tribute we can pay...

The best tribute we can pay to the lives of our colleagues on this earth is not saying the kind things we said about them, but emulating the values they stood for. After all, life is an interval between two rests in our quest for eternity. When

we leave these bodies, we only discard an old garment to don a new one. It is not important how long we live in this brief interval, but how well we live.

Sylvia Amisi

