

# WACAP: CORNERSTONE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

## “Cooperating across borders to effectively tackle transnational organized crime”



# WACAP achievements' by Coumba Mathurin Diop, WACAP Project Officer

The WACAP network, established in 2013, aims to facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters against all transnational organized and serious crime, including terrorism. the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It's membership is made of the fifteen ECOWAS countries and Mauritania and Chad. It is implemented in collaboration with and enjoys broad political support from the ECOWAS Court of Justice and Commission.

The WACAP has achieved impressive results -in the relatively short period since its establishment including:

- i) the birth of a network of contact points who facilitate requests for mutual legal assistance (MLA) with countries within and outside the network;
- ii) the setting up and/strengthening (institutionalizing) of Central Authorities (CAs) for Mutual Legal Assistance in many countries namely Burkina Faso, Benin and Niger and strengthened in Cabo Verde, Ghana, Mali and Nigeria;
- iii) improved capacity of criminal justice officials to make more effective MLA requests: so far 540 criminal justice practitioners have been trained on international cooperation and a pool of 105 national experts created;
- iv) increase in successful MLA and extradition request to/from the region (e.g. the first extradition from Mali to the US was facilitated due to the network);
- v) the exchanges of liaison magistrates between Nigeria and Italy Nigeria and Spain;
- vi) revised and updated legal frameworks, e.g., new legislation in 2018 for MLA in Burkina Faso and Mali;
- vii) improved coordination between national competent authorities to ensure greater efficiencies in the treatment of requests for assistance;
- viii) focal points have contributed to the revision of practical tools intended to improve cooperation worldwide, (e.g., the UNODC MLA Request Writer tool, the UNODC MLA hotline ([unodc-mla.facilitators@un.org](mailto:unodc-mla.facilitators@un.org)), a matrix of roles and responsibilities of CAs; and a website ([www.wacapnet.com](http://www.wacapnet.com)), etc.);
- ix) working with judicial institutions and universities, the teaching of transnational organized crime and international cooperation in criminal matters have been introduced into their curricula of in Mali, Chad, Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso. This serves to ensure a broader base of knowledge and skills of magistrates and prosecutors and the sustainability of training on these subjects.

*These are achievements could definitely be improved upon with more funding and transnational organized crime will be successfully tackled with increased international cooperation.*

# Editorial by Karen Kramer, Senior Crime Control and Criminal Justice Officer

There are many benefits to having a dedicated centralized office to coordinate, lead and monitor cooperation in legal matters. At the first WACAP meeting, it seemed that only two of the 16 participating states had offices with staff dedicated full time to judicial cooperation. Since then, the network has been actively promoting the establishment of central authorities (CAs) for mutual legal assistance (MLA) to ensure that there is expertise in this complex area of law and the ability to provide support to law enforcement or prosecuting officials on the legal or practical procedures and requirements of how to draft requests that meet the requirements of requested states. We now have CAs in 5 more countries and these have been provided with training and/or the tools to do their own training but these and other countries still need our support.

Other problems faced in the region when we began was that practitioners did not know who to contact if they had questions before sending a formal request (through what many regards as the “black hole” of the diplomatic channel). Furthermore, many of our contact points did not know that informal consultations are encouraged as a rule (and not as an exception), before a formal request is submitted. The ability to make direct contacts through this informal mechanism has opened up a whole new way of doing business and sometimes even overcoming a simple lack of trust or ability to communicate because of language.

The important value of the network became apparent during the first meeting held in Praia in 2013 when a conflict erupted between the officials of two countries concerning an extradition matter. Discussions both in and outside the meeting room led to a satisfactory resolution. Moreover, some weeks after the meeting we learned that two participants had further contacts and resolved a long-pending extradition request, the first ever between their countries. Thus, after just one meeting we had focal points appointed, contacts and trust being established, cases resolved and the sharing of experiences between officials at different levels of capacity. Now we have many examples of successful cooperation on cases between countries in the region and with countries in other regions. For the countries of the Sahel region where much of crime is crossing several borders, our contact points

are using the knowledge and tools to coordinate investigations and prosecutions paving the way for the possibility of a sub-regional prosecution coordination mechanism or centre.

Through the WACAP network the contact points have also learned that judicial cooperation is not only about using and complying with bilateral, regional and multilateral treaties dealing with crime. In Praia, a Judge of the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice highlighted the importance of such a network to raise the capabilities of practitioners in West Africa with the goal of building trust, of harmonizing good practices that can ensure legality and uphold human rights. He noted that all the countries of West Africa have commitments to regional/international treaties relating to human rights. He stressed that judges and prosecutors need to be aware of them because any person subject to a coercion measure, like extradition, will try to exploit all the legal obligations to which the country is a party and this can result in decisions overturned and fines and sanctions by international tribunals.

Seven years on and many of the first focal points have been appointed to the Bench or other important positions or have become the chief of their new central authority. Yet, they remain in contact and willing to support their colleagues, as required. Therefore, another result of this initiative is a community within the region not just of practitioners, but of advocates and leaders. It is their network because it is for their benefit and use.

In the scope of big initiatives, of which this is one, much has been achieved. Some of the contact points have volunteered to give you their views on the impact of this network in the following pages. The network has had broad support within and outside the region but it has managed itself with very little funding. Unfortunately, the future sustainability and further evolution of this network are in jeopardy without more donors and new funding. Therefore, we are inviting ongoing and potential donors, the Member States of the WACAP and any other interested party to join a “Friends of the WACAP” network. Please support this already successful building block that contributes and supports more effective investigations and prosecution of all forms of serious and transnational crime.

# Success stories' corner

## BENIN

**Rodolphe AZO, Investigating Judge of the First Cabinet of the Cotonou Trial Court in Benin; Member of the Investigation Commission of the Court for the Repression of Economic Offences and Terrorism (CRIET)**

I attended UNODC training courses held in Benin on mutual legal assistance, judicial cooperation and international rogatory commissions. These trainings significantly increased my capacity and knowledge of prosecution of economic and financial crimes,

These trainings enabled me to become more familiar with the tools of judicial cooperation. I was thus able to better handle rogatory commissions for extradition requests, particularly from Burkina Faso, China and Lebanon.

These trainings have increased my understanding of the facts of the procedures that are assigned to me and thus enabled me to undertake the most appropriate and informed actions for investigation. The procedures are thus approached with greater precision and assurance.

After the attacks of 15 January 2016, there were no indications for possible solutions: all the attackers were shot dead, no useful documents or objects were seized, except for the three assault weapons.

The examination of the seized weapons revealed that the same weapons (with similar serial numbers) were used in the Grand Bassam attacks in Côte d'Ivoire. Requests for assistance were sent to the Ivorian authorities through official channels; three (03) years later, responses through official channels have still not been received.

It is therefore through the informal channels that results were achieved immediately after the crisis. Thus, thanks to UNODC initiatives, the Burkina Faso judicial authorities in charge of the 15 January 2016 attack case (Judge BADO N. Idrissa, Prosecutor SAGNAN Tondjoa who is also WACAP focal point) but also the central authority, the Director of the Judicial Police and a captain of the gendarmerie forged ties with their Ivorian counterparts during the training of trainers held in Abidjan in September 2015.

Through informal exchanges based on the good practices and channels advocated by the WACAP network, it was possible to make a link between the attacks in Ouagadougou and Grand Bassam in Côte d'Ivoire, which led to the arrest of an individual who provided information on the people who assisted the attackers.

Informal exchanges allowed us to trace the history of the 15 January 2016 attack in Ouagadougou. These results were made possible thanks to informal cooperation between judicial actors.

## BURKINA FASO



**Tondjoa SAGNAN,**  
Burkina Faso  
Prosecutor at the  
Tribunal de Grande  
Instance (High Court)  
of Ziniaré

**Progress has been made thanks to informal cooperation between judicial actors (Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso)**

## CAPE VERDE



**Elisa Solange GOMES MENDES**, Prosecutor, Central Department for Cooperation and Comparative Law

Since 2015, the Central Department for Cooperation and Comparative Law of the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Cape Verde

has a record of cooperation cases with countries that are part of WACAP namely Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Nigeria.

In January 2015 Cape Verde sent a request for cooperation on crimes of document forgery and money laundering to Guinea-Bissau, through diplomatic channels; at the end of May 2017, in the absence of a response from Guinea-Bissau, Dr. Luís Landim, one of the WACAP Focal Points in Cape Verde at the time, and responsible for judicial cooperation, informally contacted his counterpart in Guinea-Bissau, Dr. Teresa Silva, who in turn intervened with the competent authorities, and the letter was complied with and returned to him in February 2018;

In the judicial year 2015/2016 Cape Verde requested the extradition of 3 (three) Cape Verdean citizens suspected of committing crimes of homicide from Guinea-Bissau; similarly, the intervention of the WACAP focal point, Dr. Teresa Silva, was of paramount importance for the satisfaction of these requests, two of which were concluded in February 2017, with the handing over of two citizens of concern to the Cape Verdean justice system.

Still in that same judicial year, following the request of a Guinea-Bissau national prisoner convicted of a crime of international drug trafficking, Cape Verde formalized a request for the transfer of a convicted person, which with the collaboration of the WACAP focal point, Dr. Teresa Silva, was concluded in January 2019, with the handing over of the convicted person to the Guinea-Bissau authorities.

In February 2017, Cape Verde benefitted, together with Guinea Bissau, from a «Training of Trainers in Adult teaching methodology, the Law and principles of International Cooperation in criminal matters», with the participation of prosecutors and judicial police officials.

Following this training, in March of 2017, four magistrates from Cape Verde ( 3 from the Public Prosecution Service and 1 from the Judiciary) replicated this training to about twenty magistrates from the Public Prosecution Service (8 judicial magistrates and 2 inspectors from the judicial police). According to the evaluation of the trainees, such training was extremely useful for the performance of their duties.

If it is certain that it is not possible for us to quantify the result of this training action, the truth is that after it the number of requests for cooperation that the country sent, which in 2016/2017 was 7 (seven), in 2017/2018 more than tripled to 38 (thirty-eight), although the majority did not have the members of WACAP as their country of destination. We believe that these figures are at least indirect results of the training in question, which had a very practical side, and had allowed colleagues to demystify the «fear» of formulating a request for cooperation.

## GAMBIA



**NAFFIE SISSOHO BANGURA and SAIKOU LAMIN JOBARTEH**, State Counsel, Attorney General's Chambers & Ministry of Justice.

The most recent training organized by WACAP and the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) was the Training of Trainers on Adult Teaching Methodology on the law

and procedure of International Cooperation on Criminal Matters intended to create dialogue and to proffer solutions on transnational organized crimes within the sub-region.

This has exposed us to the Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition methods and techniques involved in seeking assistance by way of information or extradition of alleged criminals. The Gambia has made the best out of the trainings and support rendered by WACAP to its Prosecutors from the Ministry of Justice in prosecuting crimes of international nature. This has positively impacted our work as Prosecutors and enhanced our network by meeting prosecutors, judges, magistrates and other personnel of other central authorities within West Africa through whom we could contact for any informal assistance should the need arise.

Therefore, the need for collaboration to prosecute organized and international crimes cannot be over emphasized. It is in this respect that the efforts and support given by WACAP is highly appreciated. The Gambia is currently working on having its first Mutual Legal Assistance Bill to be passed into law by the National Assembly.

In 2019, The Gambia has worked with the Nigerian authorities on a case of Trafficking in persons to repatriate a three-month-old baby back to Nigeria through communication and informal assistance. The suspects' passports were confiscated and seized for further investigation. They have made applications in court to have their travel documents returned back to them but they were unsuccessful.

In addition, the Gambia/Italy Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement was signed in December, 2019 whereas the Gambia/Senegal Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement is still under consideration. These agreements are meant to create the avenue for the successful and effective prosecution and investigation of cross border crimes.

## GHANA



**Richard Ansah GYAMBIBY**

WACAP has made an impact on Ghana in both its training and as a vehicle for cooperation.

In terms of training, WACAP has held and facilitated several trainings that have broadened the capacity of law enforcement agencies in international co-operation. Not only did WACAP train officers of the law enforcement agencies, it also organized a training of trainers for these agencies which ensured that there was always a continuous capacity building; those Ghanaians who had been trained and made available to train members of the various agencies in the use of the tools of international cooperation in the course of their investigations. Having been trained as trainers, we have successfully trained many of our colleagues and officers from other agencies.

WACAP also organized a ministerial conference in Ghana in 2015 to which many agencies in the criminal justice sector and the media were invited. This single meeting exposed the people of Ghana to WACAP and its objective which in a way made various agencies receptive to the idea of WACAP.

Through WACAP we have been introduced to focal points of all member states making it easy to approach these focal for assistance both informally and formally. Previously we had to rely exclusively on diplomatic channels for any kind of assistance including emergency cases.

Recently, Ghana has handled through the WACAP network a request submitted by Cabo Verde via email and follow ups were also done through emails.

Additionally, WACAP has facilitated contacts to other bodies such as EUROJUST which helps us to work informally with European countries. This would have been impossible since we are not members of EUROJUST. This introduction to EUROJUST makes it possible to informally contact EUROJUST for what could be described as silent assistance.

## GUINEA BISSAU



**Teresa Alexandrina da Silva**, Public Prosecutor

«With globalization, international judicial cooperation in criminal matters has become more than a duty, it has become an obligation of States in the fight against organized crime.»

With these words, His Excellency the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Guinea Bissau opened the national knowledge transfer seminar on the theme of International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters, organized with the support of WACAP by the seven national trainers (including the two WACAP focal points of Guinea Bissau) who benefited from the initial training in January 2017, in São Vicente, Cape Verde.

Since this initial training, a total of 70 criminal justice officers have been trained; 20 in 2018, during the national training organized by PACED (Project to Support the Consolidation of the Democratic Rule of Law), and 20 in 2019, during the national training also organized by PACED, whose positive impact on the performance of their duties is highly visible and deserves to be recognized.

It should be noted that, since the establishment of WACAP, I have been involved in the various activities as a focal point, and in my humble opinion, the creation of the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP) was timely. This also constitutes a response to the current growing trend towards transnational organized crime

and the increasingly bold attempts by criminal groups to undermine the rule of law of States, the democratic legitimacy of political powers and the independence, integrity and impartiality of the judicial system. Articulated action to deal more effectively with globally dispersed criminal groups, which often have a high capacity for communication and organization, is essential, and WACAP has reduced the gap that existed within the ECOWAS region.

With regard to requests for mutual legal assistance, we recently successfully dealt with an extradition case from Côte d'Ivoire in December 2019 involving an Ivorian citizen who was in Guinea-Bissau and who had to be tried for crimes he had committed in his home country. We are cooperating with a number of rogatory commissions and informal requests from several countries.

## NIGER



**Morou Amadou**,  
Coordinator of the National  
Unit for Legal Assistance  
and Judicial Cooperation/  
Niger

Since its creation, WACAP has not only facilitated direct dialogue between central authorities, prosecutors and other judicial actors, but above all, it has enabled States, particularly their focal points, to become familiar with the cooperation tools, which are key instruments in the fight against organised crime.

Through the WACAP network, the focal points in Niger have had to exchange and deal with criminal procedure files with their colleagues in Burkina Faso and Mali.

In 2015, two proceedings involving Malian and Nigerien nationals prosecuted for criminal association and terrorism were concluded through the WACAP network. Exchanges between central authorities facilitated the execution of rogatory commissions by transporting investigators from Niger directly to Mali.

In 2019, in a terrorist attack investigation conducted by Niger's central counter-terrorism service, judicial police officers travelled directly to Ouagadougou to interview suspects. However, the law enforcement authorities in Burkina Faso refused intervention by the Niger police officers without a request for mutual criminal assistance. This situation was regularized following exchanges between WACAP focal points. Thus, a request for mutual legal assistance was immediately transmitted by the Prosecutor of Niamey through the National Unit for Mutual Legal Assistance and Judicial Cooperation and WACAP Focal Point.

After the 2019 training, a working session was organized by the National Unit for legal Assistance and Judicial Cooperation with the investigating judges of the Niamey High Court, to inform them about the tools available to them to cooperate internationally and the opportunity to take advantage of the WACAP focal points and the platform on judicial cooperation issues.

Moreover, the exchange of experiences and good practices on topics discussed during the WACAP meetings since its creation in 2013 and the recommendations resulting from them have not only facilitated the exchange of information between practitioners, improved the legal framework of our States in the field of judicial cooperation, but have also led to a more flexible judicial cooperation dynamic. The recommendations resulting from the WACAP and platform meetings have contributed not only to the reform of the national legal framework of Niger in the area of judicial cooperation with the adoption of Law No. 2016 - 21 of 16 June 2016 on mutual legal assistance and extradition, thus repealing a 1927 law on mutual legal assistance, but also the adoption and ratification of an agreement on judicial cooperation between Chad, Mali and Niger on 9 May 2017, regarding the constant threat of terrorist attacks, drug trafficking and smuggling of migrants. This agreement enables States to better cooperate in the fight against transnational organized crime and the strengthening of border control.

Needless to say, in addition to its assistance in building the capacity of actors in the criminal chain and central authorities, WACAP provides technical support to member countries. Thus, UNODC, through WACAP, has initiated the set-up of computer and office automation equipment on behalf of the Cellule Nationale d'Entraide Pénale (National Unit for Legal Assistance and Judicial Cooperation) as well as the implementation of a management software, a video projector with its accessories, the installation of an intranet and several other materials. All of which will enable the Unit to function properly.

***WACAP is a powerful and necessary tool for judicial cooperation, especially at a time when we are faced with the development of transnational organized crime in our sub-region.***

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## NIGERIA

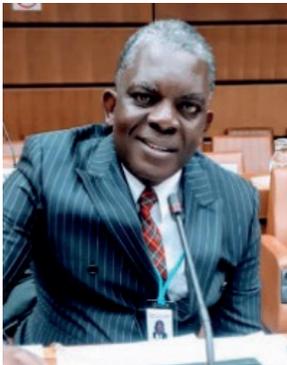


**Kwayirya Achana Yaro,**  
Principal State Counsel,  
Central Authority Unit,  
International Cooperation  
Department

Following the training of trainers received in Lagos in 2016, a national transference session was organized for competent authorities such as the Nigerian Customs Service, NAPTIP, EFCC, INTERPOL and Police. The role of Central Authority, MLA and Extradition requests and inter agency cooperation were the main topics of discussion. With the help of the modules distributed at the training, the facilitators were able to teach and communicate efficiently. At the end of the training the participants were all well informed on the MLA and Extradition processes and better understood the role and functions of the central authority unit. Also, some challenges have been resolved, for example the friction between lawyers and the police and/or investigators has dropped tremendously.

### Geraldine Okafor, former WACAP focal point

Four Nigerian students were detained in Ghana in 2014. The trial of the students was delayed as a result of the usual bottleneck occasioned in prosecution. I met the Ghanaian Attorney-General who was present in one of the WACAP meetings held in Ghana and discussed the case with her. She directed me to the Director of Public Prosecutions who was a WACAP focal point and the prosecutor handling the case, who was also a member of WACAP. I was advised on what to do and the channel through which facilitated the release from detention of those students. Less than three months thereafter, the case was concluded.



**Akutah Pius Ukeyima**  
LLM, Central Authority  
Unit, International  
Cooperation  
Department

The Nigerian Central Authority unit was created in May 2012 and since then and its success cannot be

recounted without reference to the huge support provided by the West African network for Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP) in so many ways. The following results were obtained:

1. Training workshops organised by the network facilitated the acquisition of skills for not only the CAU staff but the various Competent Authorities for international cooperation.
2. International travels and engagements with the UNODC and other public international organizations thereby enhancing a wider network of contacts
3. Successful and historic extradition between Nigeria and Benin Republic of a Nigerian citizen needed to stand trial for the murder of his girlfriend.
4. Improved informal communication and cooperation between the West African states community as a result of bringing the country players together in the many workshops, trainings and meetings.

5. The train the trainer program has impacted Nigeria in organizing further local and in-house trainings for a larger number of officers of the various Competent Authorities.

***To this date, the Nigerian CAU has grown into a full department known as the department of international cooperation.***

## SENEGAL



**Thierno Demba Sow,**  
Public Prosecutor at the  
Thiès District Court.

My involvement with WACAP since its inception has been of great personal benefit to me personally.

The training sessions I have attended have allowed me to better understand the issues and challenges inherent in the fight against organized crime. Thus, in the cases that I have to deal with in my capacity as a prosecutor, I am responsible for all the elements of prosecution requiring judicial cooperation. The contribution of the WACAP focal points is extremely important for the speedy processing of requests for mutual assistance in my work.

Likewise, I had the privilege of being chosen to provide, within the framework of WACAP, the training of trainers in international judicial cooperation and adult learning methods for the French, Portuguese and Arabic speaking countries of the Network.

In this capacity, I have had to train many fellow magistrates, judicial police officers and other officials involved in judicial cooperation.

They in turn have endeavoured to duplicate these trainings in their respective countries.

This has made it possible to create a relevant network of national trainers, who have been able

to sensitize their colleagues on the imperative need for cooperation and the essential role that the WACAP plays in this context.

In addition, at the national level, I have of my own initiative trained registrars and other officials in the jurisdiction of the Thies Court of Appeal. These trainings which contained the teaching techniques and content of the cooperative training developed by WACAP, were greatly appreciated.

The growing interest of judicial actors in our Network is an indication of satisfaction and an encouragement to continue in this dynamic.

LONG LIFE TO WACAP!



**Makha Barry**, Investigative Judge in charge of the 7<sup>th</sup> cabinet at the High Court of Dakar.

I took part in the training of trainers in judicial cooperation initiated by WACAP which enabled me to familiarize myself with the fundamentals of andragogy

and to master the precepts of international judicial cooperation. It has also been of practical use, as I have been able to assist colleagues in their efforts to set up rogatory commissions rogatory and draft requests for international mutual legal assistance in transnational organized crime and terrorism cases.

I have also been able to share my experience within the framework of the PCJS (Platform for Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters of the Sahel countries) where I serve as deputy focal point for Senegal.

I thank WACAP for this initiative and encourage it to repeat such sessions with colleagues in the sub-region.

## TOGO



**MAWUNOU Kokouvi Placide-Clément**, 1<sup>st</sup> substitute of the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Lomé.

Like their colleagues in other ECOWAS Member States, the focal points in Togo have benefited from WACAP's expertise in training, sharing of good judicial practices and international judicial cooperation.

WACAP sessions or meetings are privileged opportunities during which the focal points exchange experiences on judicial cases within their national jurisdictions. These exchanges enabled the focal points to be better equipped to carry out their duties as magistrates effectively. Bad practices are identified and discouraged while good practices are highlighted to serve as models. These exchanges of good practices have enabled the Togolese focal points to improve their professional performance.

In 2015, a criminal event was in the news in Lomé. It involved the murder of a young Togolese girl by a Nigerian who had arrived on holiday with his sister, who was herself the wife of a Nigerian man working in the vehicle parts trade in Lomé. The Nigerian courted the Togolese girl whom he invited to the home of his brother-in-law who had gone away on business with his wife (the offender's sister). A brawl ensued and the girl died. The boyfriend panicked and threw the body into the well in his brother-in-law's house, where the scene was taking place. After his criminal act, the young Nigerian left Togo in a hurry to go to Lagos without explaining anything to his sister and brother-in-law. The victim's family had been without news of the victim for days and began looking for him.

At the WACAP meeting that followed the brother-in-law's imprisonment, the Togolese focal points presented the case in plenary and sought the collaboration of their Nigerian colleagues who spontaneously expressed their willingness to cooperate in the event that Togo requested the extradition of their fugitive compatriot. The maintenance of contact between the focal points of the two countries thus enabled the fugitive to be arrested in Lagos and effectively extradited to Lomé in 2017 under the simplified procedure of police-to-police surrender. He is currently being held in custody at the Lomé Civil Prison. His confession of the crime has allowed his brother-in-law, who was innocently detained, to regain his freedom since then.

We take this opportunity to pay a well-deserved tribute to Mr. Pius AKUTAH, who was the central authority in Nigeria at that time, for the role he played in the success of this successful judicial cooperation.

During the month of November 2019, Mr. Cheibou SAMNA, Public Prosecutor of the Republic of Niamey, contacted us through the Whatsapp social network to inform us that the Nigerian security forces had just arrested two (02) Togolese

who were travelling in a pick-up vehicle and were in possession of military uniforms, portable radios and other objects that could lead us to presume that they were jihadists.

The prosecutor sent us for verification, through the same channel, the photos and identity cards of the persons arrested, and other information collected from them.

On the same day, we reported our exchanges with Prosecutor SAMNA to our superior, the Public Prosecutor at the Lomé Tribunal, who informally made the information available to the Togolese intelligence services. The information gathered by these services following their checks, was returned to the prosecutor in Niamey, which enabled Nigerian authority to realize that our arrested compatriots had no terrorist profile and to have them released.

These various cases of informal cooperation have made it possible, thanks to the links created through WACAP, to find valuable solutions in record time to difficult situations, which would not have been the case had cooperation taken place through formal, that is, diplomatic channels.



# WACAP

West African Network of Central Authorities  
and Prosecutors against Organized Crime

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