



Victimes, plus jamais seules

THE NECESSARY CONSIDERATION OF VICTIMS IN THE ORGANISATION OF THE TRIAL OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF NOVEMBER 13, 2015

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Numéro
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INTRODUCTION

A real « challenge »:

- 131 deceased victims, more than 400 victims physically injured and thousands of others psychologically impacted, on various crime scenes;
- over 2200 civil parties to the proceedings;
- 300 lawyers at least;
- Approximately 9 months of hearings;
- 20 accused (including a member of the terrorist commandos still alive).



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INTRODUCTION

2 years of preparation before the beginning of the trial => *on the basis of the experience of the trial of the terrorist attacks of January 2015*

Participation of the victim support association PAV and of victims' associations to the preparation of the trial, in collaboration with the jurisdiction:

- * victims' needs taken into consideration,
- * large involvement of the associative sector

ADAPTATION OF THE RIGHT TO ACCESS THE TRIAL

Construction of the courtroom

Main courtroom
=> capacity of 600
people, 550 seats
for civil parties

+ a dozen
retransmission
rooms





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ADAPTATION OF THE RIGHT TO ACCESS THE TRIAL

The Internet-radio

Possibility of a non-interactive audio retransmission of the trial for the civil parties, tested for the first time for this trial.

A single personal access code for each civil party (on request) to a dedicated channel to listen to the full proceedings (with a slight delay).

Under the power of the presiding judge of the Paris Court.

System requested by victims' associations = the best compromise to allow victims to follow the trial "remotely" over a very long period, as many victims work and therefore cannot be away for too long.



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ADAPTATION OF THE RIGHT TO ACCESS THE TRIAL

Psychological assistance helpline

Need for adaptation of the support's methods for victims by the associations: Internet-radio means victims in isolation and lonely, facing a screen without images.

Dedicated telephone line related to the Internet-radio opened by PAV: referrals to psychologists and local FV associations, taking into account where the victim who is asking for support is living.



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RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Civil parties' Vademecum

Written by PAV along with the services of the Court of Appeal (practical information and explanations for civil parties)

Handed over/disseminated to as many civil parties as possible

Preparatory meetings and mobilisation of victim support associations

Visits of the courtroom organised by the Court of Appeal and PAV

Contact of all victims by all France Victimes' associations who had supported them



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RIGHT TO CONSIDERATION

PAV Questionnaire

Questionnaire sent to the civil parties - *Goal* = to have a global overview of victims' "attendance" of the trial (sent twice, to obtain as many responses as possible)

Victims' testimonies at the beginning of the trial

- * Unusual in a trial = 5 weeks of trial dedicated to victims' voices
- * Reaffirms the importance of the victims' experience and the importance of having an oral hearing
- * 350 civil parties testified. A very emotional time, where PAV was solicited a lot for support and assistance



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RIGHT TO CONSIDERATION

Secured space & media

Secured space delimited = main courtroom, break room for civil parties, confidential booths for psychological support

Only accessible for people wearing a badge (mainly civil parties, judicial authorities, lawyers, journalists and the PAV team)

Journalists can only speak to victims wearing a green cord with their badge (red meaning they do not wish to be approached by the media)
+ sanctions planned in case they talk to victims with a red cord



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RIGHT TO CONSIDERATION

Green and red cords, and civil parties badges





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HELP AND SUPPORT BY PARIS AIDE AUX VICTIMES

Dedicated telephone line and email address

Created by PAV to provide information and answer victims' questions before, during and after the trial

Accessibility to the victim support association for all victims (not only victims living in Paris + victims who could not meet PAV in person)

Over 200 « meetings » remotely, through this telephone line



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HELP AND SUPPORT BY PARIS AIDE AUX VICTIMES

Support system on site

PAV (Paris Aide aux Victimes) team

- * 12 psychologists,
- * 2 jurists,
- * 1 coordinator

+ the Director





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HELP AND SUPPORT BY PARIS AIDE AUX VICTIMES

PAV (Paris Aide aux Victimes) team

Number of victim support workers is **adaptable** => varies depending on the number of civil parties and on the moment of the trial)

The PAV team is **identifiable** => wearing a PAV badge and vest

+ court staff also in charge of welcoming civil parties



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HELP AND SUPPORT BY PARIS AIDE AUX VICTIMES

Break room for civil parties

Dedicated room for victims managed by PAV:

- * only accessible by civil parties and PAV,
- * so victims can take a break, drink water,
- * informal discussions between victims themselves and with the association

+ Confidential booths outside the courtroom for formal psychological support



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HELP AND SUPPORT BY PARIS AIDE AUX VICTIMES

Psychological support in Paris City Hall

Room set up in Paris City Hall, managed by 2 victims' associations

Space where victims can meet, similar to the break room in the Court of Appeal, but outside the jurisdiction so victims don't feel « confined » in the courthouse

A psychologist from PAV present every day of the hearing to provide psychological support in confidential booth



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FOREIGN VICTIMS

Collaboration between France Victimes & VSE + specific recruitment by PAV

Coordination with Victim Support Europe to refer foreign victims to a local victim support organisation

+ language speaking abilities taken into consideration when PAV recruited the team



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FOREIGN VICTIMS

Accessibility of the Internet-radio abroad & interpretation

Issues despite the Internet-radio's success:

- * not accessible outside of France: risks of cyber-attacks,...
- * no translation of the debates: victims have to understand French to follow the hearing

=> Ministry of Justice currently trying to find solutions



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FOREIGN VICTIMS

Interpretation in the courtroom

Interpreters present in the back of the courtroom in order not to disturb anyone + victims have headsets to hear interpretation

Foreign civil parties who testified were accompanied at the bar by an interpreter => to be understood by the magistrates, lawyers and people present in the courtroom + to understand and answer the President's questions



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As a conclusion...

Coordination of all actors is necessary:

- * facilitates the transmission of information,
- * presentation of practical issues

⇒ need to work together to find the best solutions for victims

However: enormous financial means needed for this support system which makes it difficult to duplicate for daily hearings

Tailor-made approach is fundamental to properly take victims' needs into account



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Thank you for your attention!

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