



## **MEMBER NEWLETTER N°35 OF 15 MARCH 2024**

### **ASSOCIATION FOR THE TRUTH ON THE MURDER OF SOPHIE TOSCAN DU PLANTIER BORN BOUNIOL (ASSOPH)**

#### **A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ASSOPH, JEAN-PIERRE GAZEAU**

Our 16th general assembly was held on December 18, 2023, virtually via the Zoom software. A summary of it is presented in this bulletin. The minutes are available to any member of the association. Simply request them at [assoph0793@orange.fr](mailto:assoph0793@orange.fr) or at the new address of ASSOPH provided at the bottom of page 2. This delay of 3 months in reporting on this meeting is due to the formalities of changing the association's address and creating a new bank account, the details of which are also provided at the end of the document.

In the meantime, we have had to face a crucial event for the continuation of our actions, namely the death of Ian BAILEY, who passed away on January 21 due to a heart attack. Both the French and English versions of the press release, sent to press and media organizations in France, Ireland, and the United Kingdom, accompany the sending of this bulletin. The disappearance of Sophie's murderer does not halt the ongoing legal proceedings in Ireland, and it should not deter us from pursuing our objectives of truth and justice, even if the latter was rendered in absentia in France in 2019: significant shadows still remain.

#### **FOR IAN BAILEY, "GAME IS OVER"**

Ian BAILEY passed away on Sunday, January 21, 2024. Abandoned by Jules THOMAS and everyone else, still drowned in alcohol and drugs, he ended his life in a gravely deteriorated state of health: he was supposed to undergo a triple heart bypass surgery at Bantry Hospital, but the doctors abandoned the operation due to his condition. His run as a fugitive guilty before justice is now over; he will no longer have to explain himself before a human jury for his actions since December 1996. Only the documented evidence of his crime remains, along with what is yet to be uncovered. Quite intelligent, outsmarting the police and Irish institutions that were almost accommodating, he managed, despite the evidence, to avoid facing a judge for 26 years. Always denying his crime to the police and the well-intentioned press, refusing to explain himself before a French judge on numerous occasions, and making statements (even a podcast) full of lies, manipulations, and omissions, he nevertheless confessed his crime in great detail to people in his circle or even his neighbors... But the TRUTH, everyone in Ireland knows it, and it was stated before the Paris Assize Court on May 31, 2019: the highly motivated judgment concluded beyond any reasonable doubt that he was guilty of Sophie's murder, in atrocious and well-documented circumstances, and sentenced him in absentia to 25 years in prison.

#### **FOR THE FAMILY, A TIME OF RELATIVE CALM**

For Sophie's family, Ian BAILEY's death represents a significant event. While not completely answering their need for truth and justice, it brings an end to 26 years of legal wandering, with the judgment of the Paris Assize Court now being final. The population of County Cork and more broadly Ireland, reassured by Ian Bailey's disappearance, described by many with various derogatory terms, continues to offer sympathy and support to Sophie's family in a case that now takes on the dimension of a national legend. Ian BAILEY's death puts an end to the haunting presence and freedom of movement and speech of Sophie's murderer. Pierre-Louis and his children will no longer risk encountering the murderer while moving around Schull and the Dunmanus West region

## FOR OUR GROUP, THE FIGHT CONTINUES

Ian BAILEY's death marks an important chapter in the quest for truth and justice for Sophie's murder. It does not halt ASSOPH's fight, which still demands:

- That the police and judicial authorities of the Irish state articulate their truth, established if necessary after more than 26 years of continuous and futile investigation. Highlighting, beyond any reasonable doubt, the actions of the murderer and any possible accomplices is crucial for the credibility of Irish judicial institutions.
- That the truth established judicially by the French justice system not be omitted or distorted by Irish authorities, the press, or commentators. Indeed, there is only judicial truth... On this occasion, and in the often pervasive context of social media, it is worth recalling the statement of the President of the French Court of Cassation at the solemn opening session of the court on January 15, 2024: **"To those who think they can express their opinion on this or that case making headlines, I say that only the magistrates in charge of the case and who have precise knowledge of it are able to have an enlightened opinion, which will underpin their decisions."**

## OUR 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS HELD ON DECEMBER 18, 2023

On December 18, 2023, our general assembly was held remotely via the ZOOM software, with the participation of 26 people, members or friends; 18 signed proxies were obtained. 45 members are up to date with their 2023 dues. In addition to ASSOPH members or guests, several Irish or British friends were present, and the active presence of Catherine CLEMENT, Yves QUERE, Jean-Marie ROUSSIGNOL, and Irish journalists Senan MOLONY, Michael SHERIDAN, and Barry ROCHE was also noted. This meeting provided an opportunity to present in detail the judicial and media situation in Ireland, France, and at the European Commission level. It allowed for the renewal of the Board of Directors, the issuance of moral and financial clearances, and the validation of the change of address and bank account of ASSOPH (a simplified report can be sent to members upon request via [assoph0793@orange.fr](mailto:assoph0793@orange.fr) or the new postal address below).

### Please note the new contact information for ASSOPH:

Address: ASSOPH c/o Mr. Jean Pierre GAZEAU 5 rue des rocs 86300 Chauvigny

Banking details: BANQUE POPULAIRE VAL DE FRANCE

Account holder: ASS ASSOPH IBAN: FR76 1870 7007 3132 3214 5691 860 BIC: CCBPFRPPVER

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND POSSIBLE DONATIONS

With the death of IAN BAILEY and following his conviction in May 2019 to 25 years in prison by the Paris Assize Court, the fight for truth and justice for SOPHIE is not over. ASSOPH will still need to rely on its French and Irish lawyers to help it obtain from Ireland the completion of its investigations, finally reveal its truth about Sophie's murder, and fulfill its European obligations regarding judicial cooperation.

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**If you wish to support ASSOPH's fight for truth and justice on Sophie's murder, there is still time to pay your 2023 membership 30 € fee and possibly make a donation.**

**Name :** ..... **First name :** ..... **Tel :** (.)..... **email** ..... **@**.....

**Address :** .....

**I would like to support the association and become a donating member by making a donation of: .....**€

**Date :**

**Signature :**

Bank checks made payable to "ASSOPH" should be sent, along with the membership and/or donation form, to the NEW ADDRESS of ASSOPH: ASSOPH - c/o Mr. Jean Pierre GAZEAU - 5 rue des rocs - 86300 - Chauvigny. It is also possible to make a transfer to the bank account whose details are provided above. Additionally, it is possible to pay your annual membership fee and/or make a donation via the HelloAsso website, <https://www.helloasso.com/>. (More specifically at <https://www.helloasso.com/associations/associaton-pour-la-verite-sur-l-assassinat-de-sophie-toscan-du-plantier-nee-bouniol/adhesions/bulletin-d-adhesion>) (ATTENTION: Unfortunately, the prefecture has mistakenly removed the "i" from "association").