



**NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS N°36**  
from 1 November 2024

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT THE  
MURDER OF SOPHIE TOSCAN DU PLANTIER  
(née BOUNIOL)**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ASSOPH, JEAN-PIERRE GAZEAU**

Our 18th annual general meeting will be held on 2nd December 2024, remotely via ZOOM, with the instructions and link sent by email or standard mail.

Following the death of Ian Bailey on 21st January, who was convicted on 30th May 2019 for the murder of Sophie, we could have believed that we should leave it at that. Nevertheless, in Ireland, the joint teams of the "serious crime review" and criminal investigation continue their inquiries. Additionally, on the media front, new books recounting the case are being published, accompanied by media actions (press, radio, TV). In particular, the launch of journalist Senan Molony's book on 12th September prompted strong statements from Deputy Prime Minister Micheál Martin, who was Prime Minister during E. Macron's visit in August 2021 and discussed the case at a press conference. Our association must therefore continue its efforts to finally uncover the truth about what happened between 22nd December 1996 at 11 p.m. (Irish time) and 10:30 a.m. the following day: what was the exact time of death? Did the murderer act alone? Among all those questioned, who are the ones not telling the whole truth?... We must also understand all the reasons that have led successive DPPs not to bring Ian Bailey to trial in Ireland.

## **THE MURDER OF SOPHIE: "A STAIN ON IRELAND."**

### **IRISH PEOPLE NOW QUESTION THE FAILURE OF THEIR JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

The silence of the police and Irish authorities is deafening and unbearable.

During the visit to Ireland by the President of France, Emmanuel MACRON, the then Irish Prime Minister, Micheál MARTIN, referred to the murder of Sophie in December 1996 in these terms:

**"THE MURDER OF SOPHIE, "...IT IS A TERRIBLE STAIN ON A COUNTRY FOR SUCH AN EVENT..."**

Indeed, for nearly 28 years, the Irish police have claimed to be searching for Sophie's murderer, yet it is clear that they have produced no tangible results. Currently, three separate investigations are ongoing:

- The "traditional" investigation by the Garda, searching for Sophie's murderer, conducted by Bantry police under the supervision of Eamonn Brady,
- The investigation by the "Serious Crime Review Team," led by Superintendent McTiernan,
- A third investigation conducted by the "national crime computer unit," aimed at analysing any material and data concerning the case that may have been seized.

During the meeting held in Ireland on November 10, 2023, to review the progress of these investigations, and since then, very little information has been provided by the Irish police on any potential findings, particularly those stemming from the search conducted at Ian BAILEY's residence in January 2024.

It is worth recalling that this meeting, which took place over a year ago, gathered in Dublin Sophie's son and brother, the president of ASSOPH, Jean-Pierre GAZEAU (via ZOOM), their lawyers, Alain SPILLIAERT, James MACGUILL, Elise MARTIN-VIGNERTE, Michael O'KANE, and the heads of the two initial investigations mentioned.

### **Why have the police and judicial authorities been unable to bring the perpetrator to trial?**

Voices are now being raised to ask why this failure has been allowed to happen. While the French justice system convicted Ian BAILEY of murder in a well-reasoned ruling during the Assize Court hearing in Paris at the end of May 2019, the Irish justice system has never been able, nor "willing," to go further than to consider Ian BAILEY as a suspect. Important events have marked this path of refusal:

- The refusal to fully cooperate with the French judicial authorities,
- The refusal by DPP Eamon BARNES to present Ian BAILEY before a court, for incredibly spurious reasons, this refusal having been subsequently "exploited" to deny the execution of a European Arrest Warrant against Ian BAILEY,
- The refusal to surrender Ian BAILEY to the French justice system after his in absentia conviction to 25 years in prison by the Assize Court in Paris on 31st May 2019,
- The refusal to adequately inform, beyond soothing words, the family and ASSOPH about the progress of the Irish investigations for the past 28 years,
- The refusal to consider French justice, despite the European Union's requirements for "mutual trust,"
- The refusal to properly transpose the 2002 European Commission directive regarding the execution of European Arrest Warrants.

Many people in Ireland do not understand this Irish stance and are beginning to question the real willingness of the Irish authorities, over the past 28 years, to apprehend the perpetrator and bring him to trial while he was still alive. Several individuals and groups, including journalists and writers, have recently addressed this issue, notably:

Senan MOLONY, during the launch of his book "SOPHIE, the final verdict" on 12th September in Dublin, in the presence of Jean-Pierre GAZEAU, president of ASSOPH, once again highlighted the facts and testimonies establishing Ian Bailey's guilt "beyond any reasonable doubt." The Irish Deputy Prime Minister, former Prime Minister (Tánaiste) Micheál MARTIN, was present (photos). He stated that Ian Bailey should have been tried for the murder of Sophie Toscan du Plantier. He also criticised the Irish judicial system for failing to extradite Bailey to France.

At this meeting, there was a call for the establishment of a "Tribunal of Inquiry" aimed at investigating how the Irish have handled the case of Sophie's murder and understanding why, despite the evidence, the investigation has not yielded results for 28 years.

Furthermore, Paul MORGAN is currently completing a work on the actions of DPP E. BARNES, denouncing the way he refused to bring Ian BAILEY before an Irish court despite the overwhelming evidence presented to him by the Garda. To justify his decision not to bring Ian Bailey to trial, this magistrate produced, in particular, an undated and unsigned white paper, critiquing the Garda investigation based on incredibly biased and dishonest arguments. This document, which was supposed to be confidential, was submitted to the Supreme Court to justify the refusal of Ian Bailey's extradition to France. This book is likely to have a significant impact in Ireland, and the Irish authorities will probably have to justify themselves.

Other books, media documents, and developments should not be ruled out. The pressure on the Irish authorities continues with equal intensity. ASSOPH must, of course, continue to play its part.

### **OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, 2ND DECEMBER 2024**

For all these reasons, ASSOPH continues its fight for truth and justice regarding the murder of SOPHIE TOSCAN DU PLANTIER, née BOUNIOL, on 23rd December 1996. The association will hold its annual general meeting on 2nd December 2024 to approve the actions and the moral and financial reports for the year, as well as the orientations for 2025. The Board of Directors will be renewed on this occasion to implement these plans. This general meeting will be held, as in previous years, "online." The notice of the meeting, including the agenda and a proxy form, is attached.



Bill Hogan (Schull)



On the left : Micheál MARTIN, Deputy Prime Minister.  
On the right : Senan Molony with his editor.



Micheál MARTIN, Deputy Prime Minister



Jean-Pierre Gazeau, president of ASSOPH

## CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP FEES 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 call upon its French and Irish lawyers to help ensure that Ireland completes its investigations, finally reveals the truth about Sophie's murder, and fulfills its European obligations regarding judicial cooperation.

If you wish to support ASSOPH's fight for truth and justice regarding Sophie's murder, you can pay your 2024 membership fee of 30 euros and optionally make a donation.

Name:.....First Name:.....Tel: (.....).....Email.....@.....  
Address:.....

wish to support the association and become a donor member by donating:  
.....€

Date:

Signature:

### IMPORTANT

Bank cheques made out 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 FRANCE**

You can also make a bank transfer to:

**LA BANQUE POPULAIRE VAL DE FRANCE** Account holder: **ASS ASSOPH**  
IBAN: **FR76 1870 7007 3132 3214 5691 860** BIC: **CCBPPRPPVER**

Additionally, you can pay your annual membership fee and/or make a donation through the HelloAsso website: <https://www.helloasso.com/>  
(More specifically at <https://www.helloasso.com/associations/association-pour-la-verite-sur-l-assassinat-de-sophie-toscan-du-plantier-nee-bouniol/adhesions/bulletin-d-adhesion>)  
(NOTE: Unfortunately, the prefecture has removed the "i" from "association.")