



MEMBERS' BULLETIN No. 38
30 October 2025

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ASSOPH, JEAN-PIERRE GAZEAU

We now stand on the threshold of the 29th anniversary of this tragedy, which has mobilised Sophie's family for so many years, and since 2008, the members of our association.

We remain tirelessly committed to the pursuit of truth and, as regards Ireland, in anticipation of final judicial actions and decisions. So many written, audio and audiovisual documents have already dealt with this case, and further waves of media attention are to be expected – notably with the forthcoming publication by Gallimard of Emily Barnett's novel *Debout comme une reine* (Standing Like a Queen). This case remains emblematic of the difficulties involved in reconciling different judicial systems within Europe. It continues to arouse the interest of many researchers and groups specialising in the analysis of the behaviour and statements – spoken or written – of I. Bailey, J. Thomas and other figures connected to this tragedy since late 1996.

AN IRISH TRUTH SOON?

On the Irish side, according to the Irish media, investigations conducted by the Irish authorities could (...) in the coming weeks lead to decisive information, some of which is eagerly awaited. Important decisions by the Irish authorities are expected to follow.

In particular, the results of the DNA analysis of the concrete block and flat stone implicated in Sophie's death are awaited. The submission of a report by the Irish police to the DPP (Director of Public Prosecutions) should follow. After 29 years of investigation, will the first glimmers of an Irish truth finally emerge in Ireland?

However, feedback from the Garda remains vague and offers no credible short-term outlook. Whatever the results, their findings will be examined with the utmost care by ASSOPH – our association will not settle for half-truths, or worse, for truths that are clearly distorted.

The main suspect, Ian Bailey, who died in January 2024, is still considered as such by the Irish authorities. He was, however, found guilty in absentia by the Paris Assize Court on 31 May 2019 of Sophie's murder, in a well-founded but in absentia judgment. Having consistently refused to appear before the French courts, and with the execution of the European Arrest Warrants (EAW) repeatedly refused by the Irish authorities, his 25-year prison sentence could never be confirmed – or overturned – by a trial in praesentia, which would have offered him all the guarantees of French justice to which he was entitled.

Although deceased, he remains guilty in the eyes of the French judiciary.

JIM SHERIDAN AND HIS FILM "RE-CREATION": TRUTH MISTREATED?

The new film by the renowned Irish director Jim Sheridan, made with David Merriman and entitled Re-Creation, follows the model of Sidney Lumet's 12 Angry Men and promotes new theories suggesting the supposed innocence of Ian Bailey. Presented at the Tribeca Festival in New York last June, the film was released in Ireland in October (see for example <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt27765947/>), and has received mixed reactions.

ASSOPH therefore expects to see the truth mistreated in the public arena. The question of whether to take the risk of engaging with such narratives has been settled by the association: it will not enter into controversy likely to generate media "buzz", but will nonetheless defend the truth by opposing the dissemination of "fake news" or conspiracy theories.

It is already necessary to remain cautious towards a media approach that disregards French justice and the ongoing investigations in Ireland.

ASSOPH has already issued, as a first response, a five-point statement highlighting the questionable nature of Jim Sheridan's approach (see Bulletin No. 37).

The association remains in close contact with our Irish friends in order to closely monitor the reception of the film in Ireland.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROCEDURE AGAINST IRELAND REMAINS PENDING

The formal notice issued to Ireland by the European Commission in October 2020 – requiring it to bring its legislation into line with the 2002 EU Directive on European Arrest Warrants – finally led, on 7 May 2025, to the Commission delivering a reasoned opinion to Ireland. Without a satisfactory response from Ireland by 7 July, the European Court of Justice was expected to be seized of the matter, in which case a condemnation of Ireland would be highly likely.

By the end of October, however, no information had reached us in this regard – nor to the contrary.

THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ASSOPH WILL BE HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2025

For all these reasons, ASSOPH continues its fight for truth and justice regarding the murder of Sophie Toscan du Plantier (née Bouniol) on 23 December 1996.

The association will hold its annual General Assembly on Thursday, 27 November 2025, in order to approve the actions carried out, as well as the moral and financial reports for the year, and to define the orientations for 2026. On this occasion, the Board of Directors will be renewed to implement these directions.

As in previous years, this General Assembly will be held remotely. The official notice convening the meeting, including the agenda and a proxy form, will be sent out as soon as possible.

CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND DONATIONS

With the death of Ian Bailey and following his conviction in May 2019 by the Paris Assize Court, sentencing him to 25 years in prison, 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 it obtain from Ireland an end to its delaying tactics. The fight for truth will also involve countering attempts to rewrite a so-called "alternative truth" not based on facts – a narrative that some now appear tempted to promote.

If you wish to support ASSOPH's ongoing fight for truth and justice in Sophie's case, you may pay your 2025 annual membership fee of €30, and, if you wish, make an additional donation.

Name : First Name:

Tel : (..).....email @.....

Adresse:.....

I wish to support the association and become a donating member
by contributing a donation of:.....€

Date :

Signature :

IMPORTANT

Bank cheques made payable to "ASSOPH" should be sent, together with the membership and/or donation form, to the NEW ADDRESS of ASSOPH:

ASSOPH - Chez monsieur Jean Pierre GAZEAU
5 rue des rocs - 86300 - Chauvigny

It is also possible to make a bank transfer to:

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

In addition, it is possible to pay your annual membership fee and/or make a donation via the HelloAsso website: www.helloasso.com

(More precisely at: <https://www.helloasso.com/associations/associaton-pour-la-verite-sur-l-assassinat-de-sophie-toscan-du-plantier-nee-bouniol/adhesions/bulletin-d-adhesion>)

(NOTE: Unfortunately, the prefecture removed the "i" from "association".)