

## **Aoun, Alia (France/Lebanon)**

(Original: English)

### **Executive summary of relevant experience**

#### **Lawyer**

At the outset of my law studies in Lebanon, during the war, there was the need for rules to stem the chaos, limit the abuse and restore a certain balance in people's existences.

Since then, my professional activity has been dedicated to the implementation of the rule of law.

#### **M.B.A.**

Holder of a Master of Business Administration, I spent two years in banking and finance, learning the bases of budget planning, budget control and strategic management.

#### **Attorney-at-law**

Once admitted to the Paris Bar, I started to practice intensively as a criminal defence lawyer and legal representative of victims, alternately.

I held the responsibility for the administration of the legal aid program for more than two years, managing the teams of public defenders, training lawyers and liaising with the judiciary, detention authorities and police services. I drafted the Chart of the public defenders that was adopted by the Bar.

In parallel, I was responsible for the teaching of criminal law and criminal procedure at the Bar school.

As legal counsel of major organizations committed to the defence of human rights, I have struggled for the rights of minorities and led a number of non-discrimination cases.

Throughout this period, I lectured and published articles and books on criminal law and procedure and civil rights.

#### **Commitment to the cause of international criminal justice**

In 2006, I founded the think tank called « Avocats et Juristes pour le Liban » whose objectives are to promote the rule of law in Lebanon, the abolition of death penalty and the adoption of the Rome's Statute by the Lebanese state. As President of the association, I organized and chaired conferences that brought together academics, practitioners and stakeholders from diverse political background on topics of concern for the civil society. Most of the debates were published ([www.ajliban.org](http://www.ajliban.org)).

In 2006, I was admitted to the list of counsels of the ICC. Since then, I regularly participated in the seminars organized by the Registry. I followed, on a voluntary basis, the seminar held on international criminal justice at the College de France.

#### **Work experience with an international court**

As Deputy Head of the Defence Office of the Special tribunal for Lebanon (STL), my objective was to set up the bases for a fair trial and hence contribute to strengthen the legitimacy of the institution. I contributed to implement the strategy of the international tribunal mainly by advising the Head of the Office, participating in the meetings of the Senior Management, contributing to the Annual Report of the President and launching outreach activities.

Alongside the Head of the Office, I liaised with diplomats and senior officials. I proposed and monitored a cycle of seminars in partnership with the Lebanese Bar associations, in joint venture with the Victims Participation Section of the STL.

I sat in the Rule committee, proposed and discussed amendments to the Rules of procedure and evidence.

I represented the Defence Office in inter-organs meetings, at the plenary of Judges and presented our observations during court hearings.

As a supervisor of the Legal Advisory Section, I defined priorities for research, recruited staff and consultants and organized legal trainings for counsels. I notably monitored the drafting of the Code of conduct for counsels, the internal regulation of the Office as well as policies regulating our working relations with lawyers. The need to conciliate between the common law and the civil law was a major challenge.

I reviewed the financial planning, the implementation of the electronic legal tool and the reports sent to the

#### **Management Committee and the Office of Legal Affairs of the UN**

The sensitive position that I occupied within the STL required diplomacy, cautiousness and devotion. I believe that the proposed position requires such qualities. I would be honored to devote my energy to contribute to the strengthening and development of an institution that bears the burden of achieving a noble cause. Rigor and technical expertise acquired during my career, combined with my desire for objectivity will serve, I hope, the neutrality of the Registry.

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