

15th September 2017

**OSCE - ODIHR
Warsaw, Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2017**

Working Session 9

**ORAL STATEMENT - Ivan Arjona for the
Church of Scientology Human Rights Office**

**Call upon OSCE and participant states to facilitate dialogue between
the Church of Scientology and the Russian Federation to end
Religious Freedom Crisis and avoid further discrimination of Children
in the Educational system**

Education in Human Rights and Respect is important to stop discrimination and intolerance and also important to increase the wellbeing of citizens within the OSCE region and worldwide.

Education not only of our children, but the education of the officials in our governments.

When one persecutes religious movements, traditional and non traditional (or if you allow it), you definitely create a problem in the school systems, in which children of parents belonging to the persecuted religions, will be discriminated and are liable to hate crimes within their own school and by their own schoolmates.

I insist that we also have to educate not only children, but also specifically government officials on no-discrimination and respect of the differences and to respect the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights as well as international human rights treaties.

Scientology is a growingly recognized religion around the world and also in Europe.

I speak in representation of millions of scientologists, and this time in the name of their children, in over 169 countries, but specifically for those from the 57 members states of the OSCE region.

Specifically within the Russian Federation, we scientologists as well as Jehovah Witnesses, other Christian movements and the so called non traditional religions, are living an era in which specific officials within the Russian Federation powers, are misusing the constitution and security to do a witch-hunt on minorities

that become defenseless before officials who will not even respect the legal decisions of the European Court of Human Rights.

The OSCE has within its mandate, and in fact every represented member state, the mission to facilitate dialogue between parties in crisis. There is a Religious Freedom Crisis in the Russian Federation, and we respectfully request the OSCE Chairmanship and the ODIHR to facilitate dialogue between the Russian Federation and the Church of Scientology and other non traditional movements so that officials and the church can work together to a proper education of the discriminating officials about religious freedom and acceptance and respect for the non traditional religions that respect the laws of the country and international treaties, especially those whose rights have already been recognized by European Court of Human Rights.

I ask you to please not stay silent, do not allow discrimination to happen just because someone could be afraid of the power of oppressors of religious freedom.

Yesterday were the Jehovah witnesses being banned, today we are being persecuted, if you don't stand up, you will have your responsibility in not having moved to avoid religious persecution and discrimination, and who knows, if tomorrow would be you the one persecuted for your ideas, and in need of others to stand for you, but they will all be silenced, banned and suppressed, there will be nobody to stand for you.

Please, for God's sake, help without FEAR to facilitate dialogue; don't let innocent people stay in jail as it is happening.

PLEASE DON'T DISCRIMINATE, HELP US PROTECT OUR CHILDREN FROM THE DISCRIMINATION THEY ARE SUFFERING DUE TO THE INTOLERANT PERSECUTION OF THE BELIEFS OF THEIR PARENTS.

PLEASE STAND UP.

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