

14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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

**Working Session 6**

**ORAL STATEMENT - Ivan Arjona for the  
Church of Scientology Human Rights Office  
Regarding Discrimination on Scientology and others  
in the Russian Federation**

Thank you very much Mr. Moderator and to all the attendees.

First of all, as the Director General of the European Office of Human Rights for the Church of Scientology, I would like to commend countries like Spain, Portugal, the UK, Sweden, Canada, Italy and Holland for their advancements every year on the fight for religious freedom and I call upon all of them and the rest of the member states of the OSCE for an outspoken standing up against religious discrimination.

The Church of Scientology, have won 3 cases at the ECHR vs the Russian Federation for their negative to register rightfully the Church of Scientology as a religious organization.

While having won legally in view of the European Convention, some officials of the Russian Federation are not only denying the application of the law and its international commitments regarding religious freedom, but as a punishment for having won at the European Court of Human Rights they did not allow registration, and have used that to put in pre-trial detention 5 peaceful Scientologists of which 3 were applicants at the cases we won at the European Court of Human Rights.

Russia should really separate Church and State, should stop hypocrisy, and should stop any biased and corrupt application of law that is meant to protect people and give security, but that instead is being mainly used as a witch hunt not only against Scientologists, but against Jehovah Witnesses, against Mormons, Presbyterians and many other minority Christians and others.

We demand you to come back to your senses and start to rightfully apply your own violated constitution as well as European, OSCE and international religious freedom standards.

Thank you.

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