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AES-UCM
*Association de l'Esprit Saint
pour l'Unification du Christianisme Mondial
(ÉGLISE DE L'UNIFICATION-France)*

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Warsaw, Tuesday 25 September 2007

**Working session 2-3: Combating intolerance and discrimination
and promoting mutual respect and understanding**

During the past 25 years, the previous French governments have set up various administrative structures. In 1998, the MILS (interministerial mission of fight against cults) was created. The title was reminiscent of an interministerial mission of fight against drugs and addictions, which suggests that, in the anticult ideology, attending religious minorities is a form of mental addiction. Fearing that such a title would sound rather "sectarian", the then new government in 2002 changed it into MIVILUDES. It is suggested here that the government is not systematically against all sects or cults but is vigilant against certain "drifts towards sectarianism".

Besides this anomaly, one should notice that several private associations such as UNADFI, CCMM and FECRIS receive subsidies from the State and other authorities, which amount for almost 100 % of their funding, in violation of the principle of separation between church and State. They hold a hostile, even aggressive speech with regard to religious minorities, and develop activities which are incompatible with the standards of tolerance in practice in the participating countries of the OSCE. Judgments for defamation have even been made against these associations, their leaders or their spokesman.

The State in France is thus directly or indirectly involved in a policy of discrimination, where religious minorities are officially given a bad image and where their opponents are given support. It has of course been the case of our own church, the Unification Church founded by Rev. Moon.

Several members of our community, as well as members of other religious minorities protest that they are discriminated in employment or by administrations. They can be rebuked for opening a bank account or renting a meeting hall. Twice, in 1976 and 1996, our headquarters were the object of bombings. Children whose families are members of religious minorities are discriminated within schools (in particular in the schoolbooks) which on the other hand teach about human rights, tolerance, accepting differences: the case of religious minorities clearly shows that beneath the surface of an ideology of tolerance, the French society does not accept the freedom of conscience.

According to the testimonies of our members, it is especially since the diffusion of the "black list" of sects/cults by the first parliamentary enquiry commission in 1995, that the UNADFI, the CCMM, the MILS, the MIVILUDES and the FECRIS widely spread out false rumours on the religious minorities, which were echoed in the media.

We protest especially against the excessive investment (manpower and financial resources) of the State in associations which organize campaigns that foster hostility towards religious minorities.

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Association culturelle régie par la loi du 9 décembre 1905 ensemble la loi du 1^{er} juillet 1901
déclarée à la Préfecture de Police de Paris le 12 mai 1995, n° d'ordre : 95/1977 - n° dossier : 990979.
N° SIRET : 404 429 961 00026 - Code APE : 913A.

The manpower and financial resources:

1) The MIVILUDES

First, we question the utility of the creation of the MIVILUDES as long as the “Bureau des Cultes” in the Ministry of Interior is the legitimate State body concerned by religious affairs.

The central organ of the MIVILUDES consists of 8 persons and has a pilot committee composed of 26 persons, and a committee of orientation consisting of 30 members. According to their report, through 70 training sessions, 2000 persons received training by the MIVILUDES in 2006.

Moreover, we are shocked by the fact that the MIVILUDES is committed to a “missionary activity” or crusade. Trips are organized in Europe and Canada to convince other nations to align with the French doctrine of discrimination against minorities!

2) The anticult agents:

- Each ministry has at least one such agent, or more
- Each prefecture has a special cell of vigilance
- Each academy also has an agent
- Each court has a special agent for cults.

3) **The National Assembly** set up three committees of investigations on cults in 11 years and a permanent group of study on the sects. Each time, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and Muslim authorities expressed very serious reservations about such policies of discrimination.

4) Private associations financed by the State:

- **UNADFI:**

Ministerial subsidies 2005: 368,373 €

Membership fees and donations: 1,954 €

- **CCMM:**

Ministerial subsidies 2004: 123,861 €

Subsidies of the Prime minister in 2001 to have new offices: 700,000 €

- **FECRIS:**

Subsidies of the Prime Minister 2005: 40,000 €

Membership fees: 2,782 €

Subsidies of the Prime Minister 2006: 50,000 €

France is the main European State financing FECRIS

Recommendations

We therefore demand to President Nicolas SARKOZY and his Prime Minister:

1. to stop financing with public funds associations such as UNADFI, CCMM, FECRIS which spread intolerance towards religious minorities;
2. to cancel the decree which created MIVILUDES;
3. to take into account objective studies carried out by sociologists and other specialists on the new religious movements.