



**European Raelian Movement**  
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[www.rael.org](http://www.rael.org)

[www.rael-perspectives.org](http://www.rael-perspectives.org)

Mister President and all the members of the Commission,

My name is Eric Remacle and I'm speaking on behalf of the European Raelian Movement, a new atheist religion, founded 30 years ago, present in 90 countries and on the five continents. We offer a third hypothesis for the origin of life on earth.

First of all, we thank you for the opportunity to be present here.

I will be very brief. We have attended OSCE conferences more than 7 times already in hope that, with your help, we will slow down the scandalous discriminations of four governments against new religions: I'm speaking of France, Belgium, Switzerland and Canada.

As you can see, these four countries have a common point: they are French speaking countries. Belgium, Switzerland and Canada are multi-linguistic and it's only in the French part of these three countries that we have to face major discrimination.

This illustrates that the French cultural position on religious freedom creates dramatic problems and doesn't comply with the Declaration of Human Rights and the OSCE recommendations that you asked the governments to follow. Until today, they have pursued their politics of discrimination against religious minorities.

If they could, they would refuse us the right to come here, as they refuse us many rights. You may be aware that some of their most famous representatives have even accused us of infiltrating the OSCE.

As we have testified many times before, Raelians have been deprived of their rights of parenthood in divorce rulings, lost their jobs for being Raelian, received death threats and verbal aggressions, have been refused conference rooms (except at the Osce) , were refused leave for national meetings; have faced social and family rejection, social contempt and so on. We are not exaggerating and the list of discrimination and illegal and degrading treatment has been ongoing in 2009.

[Here are the 5 main types discrimination by French speaking governments :](#)

**1) In France**, courts base their decisions on the « sincerity » of journalists' or private individuals' opinions, even if they express serious slanderous accusations against religious minorities. Slandering has become acceptable to French magistrates, when it concerns movements, founders and members that have been listed and qualified as cults. We have testimonies which illustrate this phenomenon.

**2) In France, Quebec and Switzerland Public servants insult members of religious minorities.**

§ politicians

§ police officers

**3) In France, Belgium, Quebec and Switzerland refusal of renting public locations and refusal of public manifestations.**

*“we don't accept you because you are on the government's list of harmful cults”.*

**4) In France, Belgium, Quebec and Switzerland judges use double standards in dealing with cases concerning religious minorities groups and their members.**

§ refusal of nationality

§ refusal of child custody

§ refusal of residency

§ refusal for accepting pleas which would be accepted for any other Movement

After our speech two years ago, the Belgian government told us here that we can reply with legal means to discriminations of public servants.

While we agree and do take legal measures, we question ourselves on the need to discriminate? And why take legal measures when you can stop discrimination by changing the politics on new religions ?

This discrimination starts with a simple postulate deeply rooted in the culture of these governments: we are not a true religion, like many other new religious movements, and to them, are pretexts to hide criminal organizations. They do not say it outright but that's what they deeply believe.

Thus, Mister President, if our Movement were a criminal organization, they would have every reason to fight us, which is what they are doing.

However, they have no proof of what they say. They blatantly discard the rules of democracy and the principles of prudence and presumption of innocence. The presumption of guilt is more rampant in these four countries, which we live on a daily basis.

French-speaking countries have passed from a system of constitutional freedom to a system of defence and surveillance that has given way to the automatic presumption of guilt, to exclusion, humiliation and degrading treatment for a part of the population.

These governments have categorized religions, those in their favor are called religions, those they disfavor are labelled criminal organizations and called cults or now “organisation with sectarian drift”.. They have drawn name lists, have even made a map locating religious centers in Paris, distributed them in schools, and have influenced judges in courts.

In 2009, more and more theologians and sociologists are criticizing these governments to make them accountable for the term « cult, harmful cult, sectarian character or drift.. » which we often hear them use.

Why do they not simply let the justice system handle religious minorities when there is an obstruction of the law? As many theologians and sociologists remarked, public servants and governments do not need to create special entities to fight criminal organisations. The Justice system has everything it needs.

In her report on France dated March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 the UN Special Reporter Asma Jahangir, urged the French Government to remember "that no one can be judged for his actions other than through the appropriate judicial channels."

Thus demonstrating that the "Center for information and advice on dangerous cults" financed by the Belgian government and the Milivtudes in France are illegal and anti-democratic.

The cult' list still exist today in Belgium and is being used consciously and unconsciously by public servants to discriminate against us.

The French speaking governments have falsely declared that the french list made in the past have no legal repercussions and that it has existed only for information purposes. We have much evidence to demonstrate that this is not the case.

We expect them to announce that we have exaggerated in our speech, and that we have the same rights as other citizens. But they have never attempted to discuss the matter, nor accept to see the evidence demonstrating our status as second class citizens.

That's why we are asking, and even insisting that an OSCE delegation witness the evidences and visit other religious minorities in these countries, which we also defend in this struggle for freedom.

**Thank you mister President.**

Here are a few examples of government discrimination:

**In France**, courts base their decisions on the « sincerity » of journalists' or private individuals' opinions, even if they express serious slanderous accusations against religious minorities. Slandering has become acceptable to French magistrates, when it concerns movements, founders and members that have been listed and qualified as cults. We have testimonies which illustrate this phenomenon.

A judgement on the 1st of February 2005, confirmed by a court ruling in Paris on the 12 of January 2006 and a court ruling on the 9th January 2007 recognized that Mister Philippe Bouvard made slanderous comments about Rael describing him as a "crook". This ruling was overruled based on the information in the report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1995 which denied Rael the right to answer this attack. This report which grants parliament immunity for the authors and reporters at the national assembly makes slander acceptable for French magistrates if it concerns movements or founders and members listed as « cults ».

The same judgement on the 16th of March 2004, the 12th of December 2005 and the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2007 acknowledged that Ms. Dominique Saint Hilaire had "evidently" slandered Rael by accusing him of swindling and tax evasion.

Despite this ruling, the report made reference to the parliament's report and the sincerity of Ms. Dominique Saint Hilaire's comments and therefore, no sentence was pronounced and no compensation given either.

It's also on the basis of this report and this list that a young Raelian woman lost her job as an animator for teenage children in Vincennes, near Paris, despite the fact that no previous observations nor criticism had been made against her work. It was following a TV show where she appeared that a letter was sent to her employer and which referred to the fact that: « The French Raelien movement is considered a cult by a parliamentary report ... » (the letter is enclosed in our file) ». A final ruling at the Court in Melun on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2005 recognized that the loss of her job based on slanderous comments was illegal and condemned the school of Vincennes. The latest judgement was ignored since no one was prosecuted and the case was dismissed. This case demonstrates the will of Public authorities to tolerate slanderous behaviour with the will to prevent people from pursuing their professional activities because of their religious beliefs.

The situation in France is so serious so that in this atmosphere of hate everything is possible. **Even incitation to murder.** Ms. Ophelie Winter, after having been asked about cloning in a press release in Max Magazine in March 2003, declared: « I think Rael should be killed ». The Judges pronounced no sentence as the judgement on the 28th May 2003 in the Versailles court was broken by the court on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2006, which considered that Ms. Winter expressed herself with humour and thus didn't justify any penalty! Would the sentence have been the same if it were made against a high religious figure?

**Public servants insult members of religious minorities**, such as Mister Bernard Kouchner, who qualified the spokesman for the Raelian movement as « dangerous » and as a « bastard » on a TV show on the public channel France 2 on the 6th of January 2003. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2007, the Paris court judged that Mister Kouchner and the director of the public service channel France 2 were guilty of insults and public injuries. Mister Bernard Kouchner is a person who has international responsibilities (Civil administrator and was a high representative of the United Nations, ONU for Kosovo). Mister Bernard Kouchner has been a member of the French government and he is currently Minister of Foreign Affairs. He manifested the hatred and slander which animates representatives and public powers in France towards religious minorities.

In society, we face discrimination when renting conference rooms or when we participate in public events. We are often told: "we can't accept you because you are on the government's list of harmful cults".

We also face discrimination to accede to some professions. For example, a Raelian could not go to a coaching school because the ethical code of this school required that one not be a member of a "cult" mentioned on the list (this code is on the site [http://www.institutvalreal.com/I\\_Deontologie.shtml](http://www.institutvalreal.com/I_Deontologie.shtml)).

- In 2003, the French black list of "cults" incited some councils, particularly that of Paris, to create a map showing the exact places where the members of spiritual religious minorities met and where their leaders lived.

En janvier 2006, un raélien de Metz, agent technique à France Télécom, alors qu'il possède les autorisations nécessaires pour y effectuer ses missions, se voit interdire l'accès à la Centrale Nucléaire de Cattenom sans qu'on lui donne d'explications malgré toutes ses démarches auprès des autorités, Préfecture, EDF, son employeur France Télécom, la CADA, la CNIL et la Halde. Il a consulté son dossier des Renseignements Généraux et il y a vu que sa religion apparaissait sur de nombreuses pages.

### **In 2009, the discriminations continue in France :**

Le 14 mars 2009, Nice, après-midi, six raéliens diffusent leur philosophie sur la Promenade des Anglais à Nice, en un lieu indiqué par le chef de la Police municipale..

**Deux agents de la police municipale** interviennent et l'un d'eux traite les raéliens de "secte dangereuse" à plusieurs reprises et à haute voix dans le but de les humilier vis à vis du public. Jocelyne T. est injuriée en ces termes par l'un des agents : "Vous êtes une malade mentale car il faut être folle pour faire ce que vous faites". Puis les raéliens sont menacés d'arrestation, de conduite au poste de police et de garde à vue.

Une lettre de plainte a été adressée au député-maire de Nice. Sa réponse, courte, n'indique pas les mesures prises pour faire cesser cette discrimination. Un entretien avec les responsables de la mairie de Nice permet de dire que le nécessaire a été fait pour éviter le renouvellement de tels faits.

Pas de témoin non raélien, pas de photo ni de film et les agents de police n'ont pas daigné décliner leur identité.

le 11 avril 2009 Lyon, lors d'une diffusion de rue pour protester contre les propos du Pape au Cameroun au sujet du SIDA et du préservatif, un groupe de deux raéliens a été agressé physiquement par un individu jeune qui leur a demandé de déguerpir, et qui devant leur refus, s'est mis à les frapper. L'individu s'est enfui et une plainte a été déposée pour violences, auprès des services de police de la ville.

**In Belgium**, an example of the will from politicians to discriminate religious minorities, comes from an assistant of the mayor from the Waterloo community, Mister Yves Vander Cruysen, who used his political power to cancel one of our conferences in Waterloo for a third time, even though he is responsible for religious minorities. He even boastfully proclaimed on 2 television stations and 4 newspapers, that he had forbidden Raelians to hold their conference in Waterloo.

The list of 189 "cults" was used by the Justice system to justify certain court decisions, notably:

- Denying a parent the right to visit her children because she belongs to the Raelian Movement,
- Denying the right for someone who met all the criteria to obtain a passport, because he was Raelian, which the National Security agency considered "serious".
- Denying the right of renting public location like the cities of Hasselt, Arlon and Waterloo and the regional public organisation "Centre Régional d'Intégration du Brabant Wallon" that clearly made a reference to the list.

**In Switzerland** the federal court has rejected our complains concerning some serious discrimination towards the members of the raelian movment for the same reasons as in belgium and france. If these discriminations were concerning other groups non qualified of "sect" these complains would be received according to the penal right.

- The Neuchâtel Police refused Raelians the right to put up posters. Our appeal was rejected by the Federal Court. The affair is currently being handled before the European Court of Human Rights.

- Rael, a French citizen and member of the European Union, and the founder and leader of the Raelian Movement, was refused residency by the Swiss authorities. The reason given for the refusal was the risk of troubling public order because of his ideas, his writings, and presence, as the spiritual leader of the Raelian Movement. A resident permit is not generally refused to a French citizen unless the person has a troubling criminal record. The spiritual leader of the Raelian Movement has absolutely no criminal record, and in the 20 years that Rael has travelled to Switzerland, has never troubled public order. His only crime: thinking outside of the box. This case has also been brought before the European Court of Human Rights. Freedom of expression has disappeared in Switzerland; being Raelian in Switzerland is now equivalent to having a troubling criminal record, while the only difference is our differing beliefs or non-belief!
- A group of Raelians was surrounded by the Police and prevented from demonstrating in support of homosexual rights by the Swiss Police at the Gay-pride parade in Lausanne. The police were deliberately trying to prevent the Raelians from following the procession. These institutional acts of injustice reflect the instigation of hatred in the media, and thus increase the climate of hatred against Raelians.

Here are a few illustrations:

- Refusing to serve a drink to a Raelian in a restaurant because of his religion. The Federal judge rendered a judgment in favour of the restaurant owner.
  - Physical assault with a paint-ball, hurting 4 people in a small village called Miège, during a Raelian celebration.
  - Insults and false accusations in the Press against Raelians, who had organized philosophical gatherings in a café.
  - Physical assault against Raelians during a Peace walk in Geneva.
  - Several Raelians have lost their jobs just because they are Raelians.
  - Many death threats by email and telephone.
  - The Raelien Movement was expelled from the Swiss Bank UBS, which held the International Movement's bank accounts, and it has no longer been able to open a bank account in French speaking Switzerland. Are the Raelians on their list of undesirable clients ?
  - During a session with the Community Council in Lausanne, the counsellor Egli Falsely pretended that the Federal Court admitted that the Raelian Movement supported paedophilia and incest. This is absolutely impossible since the Raelian teachings and writings clearly condemn paedophilia as a mental disease.
  - In April 2006, the newspaper "La Liberte" falsely stated that the Raelian Movement was a "cult" which "promotes paedophilia and incest in its writings". A lawsuit has been filed against them. Here also the Federal Court rejected the claim eventhough it admitted that the alleged fact were not exact by saying that the cult promotes paedophilia and incest in its writings and hence the movements personnality was therefore violated.

The raelien movement is also regularly refused the authorization to put up information stands depending on the involved municipalities. The municipalities mainly justify their decision by saying that there is a risk of disruption of public disorder and hence have no ascertained reason for refusing the authorization and there has in fact never been a disruption of public disorder caused by the raelien movement in Switzerland or elsewhere since the beginning of its existence.

**In Quebec**, here are some recent examples:

- In June 2008, nearly a dozen members of the Raelian Movement were physically assaulted during a peaceful demonstration for the right to abortion. The organizers greeted everyone during the demonstration, but added that the Raelians were not welcome. This incident demonstrates the degree of anti-Raelian sentiment in Canada. Not only is it politically acceptable to point fingers at Raelians, but also to physically assault them during public demonstrations.
- In July 2008, members of the Raelian Movement were expelled from public buildings, conference rooms and restaurants because they are Raelians. This injustice is not only reflected in the media, but also in government institutions. The justice system has double standards when, for example, it refuses to accept pleas which would be accepted for any other Movement, and insulting remarks have become common among high authorities in the government.

For example:

- Pauline Marois, a deputy and leader of the Quebecan Party, who was campaigning for the position of Prime Minister in Quebec, insulted Rael, the spiritual leader of the Raelian Movement on several occasions in the media by calling him "crazy". How can someone who aspires to a high position with big responsibilities make such degrading and disrespectful comments, thus disrespecting the Charter of Human Rights in Quebec?

- The Commission of Human and Youth Rights in Quebec, in charge of protecting citizens' rights, has been partial and even discriminatory when dealing with the pleas made by Raelians.

This government organization has not done its work objectively. More than half of the dozen pleas made by Raelians have been refused despite flagrant proof of discrimination (videos, letters, recordings, etc.). The Commission always has a reason, sometimes even ludicrous, to refuse the charges. Would the Commission of Human and Youth Rights in Quebec act in the same way if the people discriminated against were Catholic, Muslim or Jewish? The answer seems quite obvious.

## **In 2009, the discriminations continue in Quebec :**

### **1- A judge performing religious discrimination**

In 2003-2004, Daniel Chabot provided a training program to the entire staff of the local center for community services in Old Lachine (*CLSC*). Note that this is a public agency, which is part of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. In fall, 2003, the management asked him to prepare a follow-up day to strengthen the skills from this training, but the *CLSC* put an end to the training contract after having discovered, from the newspapers, that he belonged to the Raelian religion. After having filed a complaint with the Quebec human rights Commission (*Commission des droits de la personne*), Daniel Chabot initiated procedures with the Court of Quebec. The trial took place on September 23, 2008, before Judge Gabriel De Pokomandy. On December 3, 2008, this judge pronounced a completely discriminatory and partial judgment.

All in all, Judge Gabriel Dne Pokomandy mentions in his judgment that to be able to allege that he had been the victim of religious discrimination by the *CLSC*, Daniel Chabot had to prove that the Raelian Movement truly is a religion, without ever having asked for this during the proceedings. The judge odiously writes in his judgment: *"...what we learn [from the Journal de Montréal] does not allow one to conclude that it is a religion. At the very most, we find the description of a cult that does not have unanimous support across the world."* [52]

### **2- Justice in Canada: double standards**

In December 2003, several members of the Raelian Religion filed a complaint with the Court of Quebec (Small Claims Division) for invasion of privacy. Indeed, they saw their photograph, as well as personal information, published in several newspapers belonging to Sun Media Corporation, one of the most important owners of written media in North America. Following the publication of these articles, several members of the Raelian Religion suffered serious prejudices.

On October 29, 2007, judge John F Keable J.C.Q. (Montreal district) gave his non-suit decision for thirteen of the fourteen Raelian plaintiffs. The plaintiffs think that this judgment is completely discriminatory and does not at all take into account the whole proof they presented. He does not, for instance, pronounce himself on the clandestine infiltration, or on the use of false identities.

On March 31, 2009, another judge, Charles Grenier, J.C.Q from the district of Quebec City, rendered a diametrically opposite judgment, for a similar cause referring to the same series of articles. Contrary to judge Keable, who refused to look at the clandestine methods adopted by Sun Media journalists to photograph people without them being aware of it and then publish them, judge Grenier severely condemned these methods.

### **3- Jean-François Bergeron dismissed**

For a tee-shirt...

Mr. Jean-François Bergeron works since 2003 for the Delta Transformer Company, in Granby, Quebec, Canada.

Since it is a factory, all employees wear working clothes that suit them. The only regulations in force concerning clothing are those related to safety.

Mr. Bergeron is part of a religious minority, he is Raelian. In August 2007, he freely decides to wear a tee-shirt posting some of his convictions at his job. These hold absolutely nothing offensive, they do not encourage hatred or the rejection of anyone, and are not at all discriminatory. The words simply say that "God does not exist" and that according to him, the true face of God is that of an extraterrestrial. He is then called by his management who forces him to go back home to change his tee-shirt. As a motive it is claimed that: "the writing and the picture on the tee-shirt are offensive, and go against the religion and beliefs of certain employees who complained".

On January 5, 2009, Mr. Bergeron wore his "God does not exist" tee-shirt again. He is then called in by the management who forced him to remove his tee-shirt and wear a tee-shirt with the company's logo. A few days later, he learned that he is suspended for three (3) days, for "having contravened a neutral job environment". He was finally dismissed on January 26, 2009.

Union grievances were deposited and the cause is to be heard in fall, 2009. Since Mr. Bergeron is jobless, he files an application for unemployment insurance. His request is rejected. Mr. Bergeron therefore challenges this refusal through his labor union. The case is heard by the Board of Referees of Employment Insurance Canada and a decision is pronounced on May 20, 2009. The appeal is rejected. Thus, not only was Mr. Bergeron a victim of discrimination by his employer who unduly harassed, suspended and finally dismissed him, but also by the Boards of Referees of Employment Insurance Canada, which ratified the employer's decision and, in doing so, deprived Mr. Bergeron of his right to unemployment insurance.

#### **4- The behavior of the CDPDJ in the pieing issue, during a demonstration against bill C-484.**

Last year, we had brought this situation to your attention; here is a summary, along with the outcome.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, some fifty Raelians participated in a public demonstration, in Montreal, to denounce a bill on the criminalization of abortion (bill C-484). During the march, the organizers screamed discriminatory slogans in the loudspeakers, with comments inciting hatred "*Raelians and propaganda, out, down with the Raelians!*" Further during the march, the result of this aggressiveness, expressed throughout the activity, ended in violence. Seven (7) Raelians were victims of assault. Police complaints were filed, in spite of police officers attempting to discourage it. For that matter, the police inquiry was closed 6 months later. A complaint was filed with the Quebec human rights Commission (*Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse du Québec*) in July 2008, and after a botched preliminary inquiry, this commission rejected the complaint in a resolution dated May 29, 2009. The government authorities neglected their inquiry work and rejected the complaints without any scruple.

**France, Belgium, Canada and Switzerland** act differently from all the other European countries, in their degrading treatment of religious minorities. Thus, Mr. Abdelfattah Amor, appointed spokesperson for Human Rights expresses this behaviour in these terms: "the term "cult" has a negative connotation. [...] and this approach leads to confusion, discrimination and exclusion, which is not easily justified nor acceptable, [...] because it directly attacks the principle of Respect and Protection of minorities and – domestic and international – rights which are morally accepted".

**In order to make their fundamental rights of Freedom of Expression and Beliefs heard, European Raelians are asking that:**



- Precise laws be voted to protect religious minorities, just like those protecting the Jewish and Muslim religions.
- Government institutions be created to promote tolerance and respect for the dignity of members of religious minorities.
- The hideous report on dangerous "cults" be replaced by Parliamentary reports listing all the dangerous companies and administrations who are intolerant and discriminate against minorities; asking Magistrates to apply strict guidelines against those who discriminate against religious minorities, thus replacing the current guidelines which ask Magistrates to be strict in their judgments against "cults" and "their members".
- The Parliamentary Report on "cults", which represents a shameful blot on France's and Belgium's history, be officially destroyed and that the representatives ask all the members of organizations which were pointed out in these reports, for pardon.
- A law be voted to control the mental manipulation of administrations and the police, which push people, who no longer belong to a religious minority, to file laws suits against their former religion.
- The concept of taking advantage of someone's weakness be reviewed (as it was created to condemn religious minorities). Otherwise, this concept should apply to all the major religions, psychoanalysts and psychologists, doctors and the pharmaceutical industry, which could easily be accused of taking financial advantage of an individual's suffering. In truth, it's everyone's fundamental freedom to seek help, relief and balance, by freely choosing the path that will lead them to a state of happiness, whether it be through medical or religious means or even for the smallest of minorities.