



## EUROPEAN RAEIAN MOVEMENT

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Hello, my name is Maryline Canin from the European Raelian Movement.

The French Raelian Movement decided to dissolve its structure in 2003, thus preventing the intolerable discrimination that it was accustomed to, as is the case with other religious minorities in France.

- In 1996, an arbitrary list of 172 religious minorities, established without any methodology, singled out and accused these minorities of having criminal activities.
- Even after this list was revoked by the Prime Minister, in 2005, because of its discriminatory and arbitrary character, bills are still being presented to this day, provoking police investigations, and actions against targeted groups and their members.
- After the MILS and the Mission to Fight Against Cults were dissolved, the Miviludes, which is in charge of identifying cult deviances, still uses its predecessors' methods, despite having been reprimanded. While Mr. Fenech declares that his fight is against « cult deviances », his definition of a cult is « a group of people with reprehensible characteristics ». It is obvious that: according to his words, groups are being targeted and not their actions.
- Some Sociologists from the Miviludes chose to resign rather than use questionable methods such as creating a climate of fear, lack of proof to back accusations, use of non-scientific conclusions, creating confusion which is unfortunately propagated by the Press.
- Fenech admitted that there was a « *real difficulty for judges to find proof* ». To compensate for the lack of proof, the Miviludes, with the help of other anti-cult organizations, have been giving seminars for years to make Judges more sensitive to this issue. These private anti-cult organizations receive 97% of their funding from the Public Authorities and the government. Are they instruments of the French government?

Discrimination continues in France to this day

- **Forbidding access to professions:** The Secretary of Work, Laurent Wauquiez, announced « *a ruthless hunt against cults* » in the Training sector. The Minister's primary aim: to purge the Professional Training sector of this « cancer caused by cults ».
- **The information and training campaigns against cults were reinforced among** prosecutors, and were even mandatory subjects and training in Law Schools.
- **The Accoyer Law voted in 2008, makes it impossible for members of religious minorities to receive proper and fundamental defense in courts since slandering has become above the law.** This was Fenech's aim when he declared that « **slandering is not an offence when concerning cult groups** ».

And what about the future:

- Fenech has already proposed a bill (in his report on cult deviances) which would allow family members and others to imprison members of minorities, and refuse them their civic rights, since he considers them as "apparently consenting victims".
- And he has required psychiatric examinations to determine if belonging to a religious minority constituted a state of dependency.

We are scandalized by the leader of the Mivilude's statements, which are contradictory and which demonstrate the state of mind that this organization against « cult deviances » has. When asked why the OSCE audited the Mivilude's actions, Fenech responded that he had requested their visit.

When reminded of the recommendations made by the OSCE and the UN to the French government for better treatment of minorities, he reacts vividly by accusing these organizations of being infiltrated by cults. The Miviludes looks to gain support for its cause and cries out scandal when an authority criticizes its actions, which demonstrates the lack of possible dialogue. As a result, we are asking again that the OSCE and the ambassadors of these European countries help the French government rid itself of this paranoid plague before it reaches all of Europe.

Our propositions for the French government to rid itself of this discrimination are available on the OSCE's website:

1. **Stop the State's financing of anti-cult organizations**
2. **Dissolution of the Miviludes**

3. **Suppression of the anti-cult legal arsenal, including the About-Picard and Accoyer laws**
4. **Official dismantling of the famous Parliamentary report listing « cults », and asking that the French Parliament apologize to the members of these organizations who were scandalously pointed out in this report as criminals.**
5. **Making it discriminatory and thus against the law to use this list of 172 cults** because even when it no longer has a legal value, it can be used as a moral or social means of intimidation and discrimination.
6. **So that there never exist again in France courts that act above the law: stopping all anti-cult training of civil servants (magistrates, judges, police officers, teachers, educators, etc.)**
7. **To rehabilitate a better image of members of minorities :**
  - 7.1 Specific directives given to judges, so that discriminatory practice of the law against members of minorities be punished... (in order to replace the directive sent to judges asking them to be « stricter in their judgments against cults and their members) ».
  - 7.2 Passing of new laws, making members of religious minorities benefit from the same protection given to Jews and Muslims.
8. **Modification of the Halde,** so that it respects the function of promoting toleration and respect towards members of minorities.
9. **Setting up an information center on all the religions present on the French territory,** in order to inform people of each religion's specificities and to bring the communities closer.
10. **Making every religious or philosophical credence, writing, teaching, practice or ritual conform to the directives of the Declaration for Human Rights,** whether it be those of religious minorities or major religions.