



Coordination of Associations and Private individuals for the freedom of conscience

12, rue Campagne Première, 75014 Paris

internal release No 3

Éditorial IF JESUS CAME BACK...

DUE to the moral and spiritual decline state of our more and more materialist society, one must not push aside the hypothesis that Jesus may have the idea to come back among us to wake our limp consciences.

Then, one has to hope that he will not choose France to come without warning. Indeed, supposing that he escapes a forced psychiatric internment for trouble to law and order on occasion of one of his collective miracles (in France forced psychiatric internments are twice as numerous as somewhere else), he would not escape the new About-Picard sects' law that has just been voted. One may bet that members of the family of one of his new apostles, gathered together within an anti-sects association, raise a complaint against him to have forced this apostle to leave wife, children and well-paid job to follow him. He would be charged with the new offence of deceitful abuse of a person put under subjection.

The new sect immediately broken-up at the end of a fast lawsuit (only having fifteen days to prepare its defence with the new law) Jesus would only have to leave in a sheepish way, supposing he escapes prison.

Lord, forgive them; they know not what they do.

(This text is one of a reader's letter published in the press, which held our attention).

OUTLAW SPIRITUALITIES

AN EXTREMELY liberticidal law of exception, which limits freedom of all associations (its chapter 2 applies to all moral persons), has just been definitively voted within the almost general indifference from our elected members. One the articles of this law allows making criminal any intense practice based on faith, that can be qualified as "state of subjection". The representatives of great religions were not wrong. Yes, French and international press badly welcomed this vote but reacted a little late. How did that happen?

Since about twenty years, some upholders of *secularism of fight* aiming to exclude from the public field anything closely or by far related to religion, desperately try to destroy the reputation of a multitude of spiritual and religious minority groups, by wrongly qualifying them as "sects" having centralised all the hatreds around this notion by the well-known technique of mixture. Attacking great religions is *politically incorrect* for the moment. So these real inquisitors set themselves against smaller groups first.

A real propaganda machine was created:

- Militant and supporters "anti-sects" associations, almost exclusively financed by authorities, make all groups labelled as *sects* responsible for some noted here or there deviancy and so create a huge danger, which, in fact, does not exist. With the generalities they spread, they have become real machine for rumours, and these rumours can sometimes kill as in the case of the doctor Jullien that we spoke about in our previous issue. These associations benefit from an accommodating treatment on behalf of media, always eager for eye-catching titles.
- A parliamentary committee published in 1996 a blacklist of 172 spiritual and religious groups labelled as *sects* having collected doubtful information coming from General Information (does one have to remind that this service was created under Vichy?) and after having

done about twenty hours of hearing, a very small duration to judge 172 movements! The so labelled groups did not have right to any contradictory debate.

- The experts in sociology or in history of religions which study phenomenon with a rigorous methodological method are not heard by the elected members in charge to investigate on the same subject and very rarely have the honours of media. Because of their conclusions very often being the contrary tailor-made ideas conveyed by the inquisitors. When, for example, they show that the turnover (the number of departures) is very important in the groups labelled as sects, they make null the agreed-upon idea that one cannot easily leave movements.
- As if all these faults, these via preventing honest information to citizens were not enough, the government decided to create an *interministerial mission of fight against sects*. This "mission" only aims at telling improper generalities to officials, amplifying the phenomenon of collective hysteria and moral panic and giving it an official credit.
- A pseudo-scientific concept of *mental manipulation*, hastily renamed *putting under a state of subjection* in front of the opposition of great religions, was created by the inquisitors, without the least clinical study to support it. The fact that the only regime to have dare creating an offence of *putting under a state of subjection* is a Mussolini regime (to fight against communist propaganda!) do not seem to excessively bother the inquisitors.

The result of this campaign of hysteria is that a *real witch-hunt* settled down in France. Every day, citizens accused of being a part of a movement considered as *sectarian* lose a job, a contract, their nurse's right of children in an affair of divorce, are refused a banking loan, become some sort of *sub-citizens*.

General Information, with complete impunity, files the membership of numerous citizens of these groups as excep-

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IMPARTIAL OBSERVATION POST TO STUDY THE "SECT" PHENOMENON

CONTRARY to other democracies, France does not have any impartial observation post to study the "sects" phenomenon. Nevertheless the Council of Europe repeatedly recommended the creation of such observation post (see for example the recommendation 1202 relative to religious tolerance in a democratic society and the recommendation 1412). On the other hand, France finances, with public money, militant anti-sects associations (Unadfi, the main of them, annually gets subsidies of more than 2 MF) and it created an interministerial mission of "fight" against "sects" which also receives 6 million francs from the State. In these conditions it is not surprising at all that the *sects* image given to French citizens is an only negative image and that the logical outcome of all this is the creation of a specific repressive law. Any and all the positive actions from these movements labelled as sects are reduced to silence, as well as the observations of the researchers which study this phenomenon and which conclude that this phenomenon, very complex, should not be the object of mixtures, excessive simplifications or caricatural presentations.

France has just adopted an *anti-sects* law. Only Russia and China recently adopted such legislation.

Is it a reference? Only these countries, France and Belgium, published official lists of movements labelled as *sects*.

In most of the other countries, which have impartial observation post, tendency is the reassurance and dialogue between authorities and new religious movements. Drift, when they exist, are repressed by the simple application of the existing legislative arsenal.

So, after the separation of the Lutheran Church of Sweden and the State that came into effect on January 1st 2000, Sweden created a status of *religious community* and granted this status, with the other advantages, to movements labelled as *sects* in France such as the Church of Scientology or the Jehovah's Witnesses. In the published in 1998 report of a commission, Sweden gave up using term *sects* and preferred to it that of "*new religious movements*". The report reached the conclusion that new religious movements did not represent a serious threat for the democratic order and that their illegal activities could be fought with existing legal means. Besides, the commission recommended the creation of an institute of research conceived as an intermediary between these groups and society.

Recently, Switzerland, in a report for the federal Department of justice and police published in December 2000, concluded that the situation had not significantly changed since 1998 and that it

was adequate to give up a preventive surveillance by the protection organs of the State, while continuing to exchange, by the intervention of the federal police or another authority responsible for the preventive protection of the State, information about events and the latest developments in this domain.

Here is a non-exhaustive list of observation post set up in various countries, to inform in a impartial way about movements labelled as *sects*. These observation posts have all in common the fact of totally being independent, financially and statutorily, from the groups that they study. Authorities subsidize some.

Inform (Great Britain)

Observation post created in 1988, subsidized by the Home Office, including in its board of directors, representatives of great religions and sociologists. (Documentation Available at the Coordination)

Cesnur (Italy)

Observation post created in 1988 by sociologists of religions. Cesnur administers the most important collection in Europe of works on new religious movements (20 000 volumes).

Institute for the Study of American Religion (USA)

Observation post created in 1969 by sociologists of religions. It administers the most important collection in the world of works on new religious movements (50 000 volumes).

Remid (Germany)

Observation post created by sociologists of religions in 1989.

Finyar (Sweden)

Observation post created in 1995 by academics of the university of Stockholm.

Isorecea (Poland)

Observation post created in 1995 by sociologists of religions essentially resulting from countries of central Europe.

New Religions Research and information Center (Lithuania)

Observation post created in January 2001 by sociologists, psychologists, jurists, historians and theologians.

VIK, information centre about religion (Hungary)

Observation post created recently by academics within the department of study of religions, based in 1996.

Clims (Switzerland)

Observation post created in 1996 on the initiative of a Protestant minister. (Centre of Connection and Information about Spiritual Minorities)

Continuation of Outlaw Spiritualities

tional. Who controls the traffic of these files? Anti-sects associations boast to collaborate with General Information, so becoming a new control police of deviancies.

The logical outcome of this hysteria, and the purpose aimed from the very beginning, is the creation of an exception law, the About-Picard law.

This law will allow justice to very easily break up every group that will have a vague reputation of "sectarian group". Any group practising an intense kind of religious or any spirituality is, in fact, aimed at. Two minor offences committed within this group will be enough so that the judge pronounces its break up after an accelerated judicial procedure. *This is exactly the same as if one threatens of capital punishment every person who would have committed two breaks in the speed limit, and moreover, following a fast lawsuit!*

No association, if justice aims it at, will be able to resist the About-Picard law. Then, in other words, let's say that freedom of

association, freedom of conscience and freedom of religion are those that our elected members threw in the dustbin on last May 30th.

Law explicitly mentions that the illegal exercise of medicine and pharmacy will be able to be taken into account for the break up. So, not only all the groups that practise a religious or spiritual search may be aimed at but also all the groups which recourse to alternative medicines.

Under the attack of the inquisitors emerges the arrival of a materialist, lifeless society cleared of any reference to religion or to spirituality and in which the only remedies proposed to the *ill being* will be chemical remedies.

The spiritual minorities fight, because they are on the front, in the heart of the battle of personal freedom that begins with the freedom of faith and opinion. But it is not only their fight. It is the old fight of democracy and freedom, again threatened by an exception law.

IN A JUMBLE...

IN THE DARK OF MILS...

Paul Ariès, known author for his "anti-sect" positions, releases a new book: *Anthroposophy, inquiry on an occult power*. After having made a book on Scientology in the tradition of the MILS report, Ariès attacks Anthroposophy. In the No 77 Goliath editions communiqué of March - April 2001, one learns that Mr Ariès's book was announced in the MILS report as being a "probably well-documented" work (page 55 of the MILS report of December, 2000).

Would Paul Ariès follow the MILS footsteps?

JO OF 2008:

PEKIN AND PARIS IN THE SAME MESS...

Paris wants to be chosen for the 2008 and for that, all the means are good even though they are hypocritical.

Indeed, the argument of the Human Right, to whom is very sensitive the Olympic International Committee, is more and more put forward to eliminate Peking.

One knows that China has a period of *religious purge* and that a very grave repression hits the Fa Lun Gong as well as other organizations called *heretical*. Knowing the big fundamental principles of olympism, one can effectively denounce the unacceptable attitude of China and use it to definitively push aside Peking from the competition.

But does the city of Paris have better that the debate turns in the direction of Human right? Let us remind that there is, indeed, a certain resemblance between the two countries on the ground of the fight against religious minorities, China having widely been inspired by the French system to organize its own repression and in equivalence with the French texts.

In conclusion: will the city of Paris dare to denounce Human Right in China while the same facts can be blamed on it and while China takes Paris as an example to organize its "religious purge"? We do not see why Paris would benefit from a preferential treatment: a debate to be followed if only to know how our "country of liberties" will cope with this.

JULIETTE BOILON AGAIN IN PRISON

The Doctor Boillon was again imprisoned in the detention center of Valencia for twelve months. Juliette Boillon did not commit any offence. This doctor, member of Horus's community called as *sect* by public authorities, favourable to non-conventional medicines, underwent attacks and condemnation for a vaccine affair... that did not make any victim. This condemnation, arisen as the French state needed to justify its *anti-sect* paranoia, aimed only to frighten all the independent doctors and to dissuade the patients in the choice of their therapy.

BELJANSKI AFFAIR

Monique Beljanski, widow of the researcher Miko Beljanski, inventor of a treatment against the cancer and the AIDS, appeared in the County court of Créteil under the accusation of illegal exercise of pharmacy. In spite of the testimonies of two persons saved from the AIDS by the treatment of the Doctor Beljanski, the substitute indictment remained violent, offensive and resentful. The charged persons were condemned from twelve to eighteen months of prison with respite as well as in strong fines.

These persons will probably appeal, but the totally disproportionate character of these condemnations can shock one when at present, one knows that justice loosens drug traffickers without any problem.

ACTUALITÉS DES RELIGIONS (SPECIAL PUBLICATION): "SECTS: TO FINISH WITH CLICHÉ"

We recommend you to get this special number of the review *Actualités des Religions*. Indeed it demonstrates, in some detailed and documented articles, that these dissident religious movements are as ancient as humanity itself and that religious plurality was always a part of this world and contributed to the wealth of the thought.

Actualités des Religions, 163, boulevard Maiesherbes, 75859 Paris Cedex 17 (55 FF).

UNADFI FINANCING: INFORMATION THAT... ENRICH

THE UNADFI, *National Union of Associations for the Defence of the Family and the Individual*, keeps well from revealing the general public the exact source of its resources. Indeed, the almost totality results from public subsidies and that, for a total of more than one million nine hundred thousand francs. The main sponsors are the *Social Affairs Minister, the Education Minister, the Sport Minister, the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and the Justice Minister*.

In other words, and knowing the purposes of UNADFI, this body uses the State workings to finance, thanks to the taxpayers money, an ideological fight against a part of these same taxpayers.

The State, by agreeing to pay such subsidies, fails in its duty of neutrality whose limits are fixed by the 1905 law "the state does not recognize any cult".

Would UNADFI, not being open on its financing, be ashamed of admitting that it would not survive without the state support?

"CROIRE ET GUÉRIR QUATRE RELIGIONS DE GUERISON" (TO BELIEVE AND TO CURE FOUR CURING RELIGIONS)

from Regis Dericquebourg, *Dervy publisher*

In his book Regis Dericquebourg refuse to judge, condemn, or guarantee for the groups which he observes but successfully tries to update social phenomena both badly known, badly understood and badly perceived that are the NRM (New Religious Movements), such as Antoinisme, Invitation a la vie (invitation to life), la Science Chrétienne (Christian Science) or even Scientology.

This book is also an opportunity for Olivier Louis Séguy, lawyer in the court of Appeal of Paris, specialist of the freedom of conviction to review in a postface on the apology of suspicion that characterizes the French treatment of these groups.

In front of a stereotypical literature, make way for reason and objectivity!

So it is an appeal to all the academics so that they study news spiritualities.

MANIPULATION IN THE SENATE

DURING the last May 3rd session, and during the debate concerning the adoption of the About-Picard law, a senator scandalized by the repressive character of this law, has, in front of all the semicircle, revealed the contents of a letter sent some months ago to all the parliamentary assistants whose passage said: *"In the approach of the exam of the About-Picard private bill tending to strengthen prevention and repression against the groupings with sectarian character, it seems important to us to invite you (editor's note: 'You' being the parliamentary assistants) to the biggest caution. You will doubtless receive phone calls asking for a conversation with your senator. Your interlocutors will evoke freedom of conscience, plurality of religions. Without denying the philosophical interest that these subjects can present, we advise you against entering the discussion, we suggest you to ask your interlocutor for a written document and to finish off the conversation. If you wish to answer the mails that we receive in number at present by the post office or by the Internet, know that the groupings with sectarian character use to their advantage signatures and sentences deprived of their context. A simple acknowledgment should to protect you from it."*

The senator ended by saying: *"Here is the type of pressure, conditioning which was exercised in the back of the members of parliament with their co-workers. Allow me to say that it is absolutely scandalous!"* Here is a beautiful example of manipulation used by those that elaborated a law for, one says, to protect citizens against this kind of practice!

AS MORE THAN 9000 PEOPLE DID IT ALREADY: SIGN THE CAP PETITION!

The petition addresses to all who want to defend freedom of thought, freedom of association, who want to break this unique thought which tries to suppress us.

You will find the petition on Internet:

www.petitiononline.com/CAP01/petition.html

REMINDER: COUNCIL OF EUROPE

At the beginning of January, a reporter was appointed by the parliamentary assembly. He studies the consequences of the current discriminatory politics against the minorities. So that he can establish an "inventory of fixtures" based on lived experiences, you can send him your personal testimony by writing to:

Mister Cevdet AKCALI, comité des affaires juridiques et des droits de l'homme, council of Europe, Avenue de l'Europe, 67075 Strasbourg Cedex.

Cape on the C.A.P.

You want to be informed, you want to receive the newsletter, write us at:

CAP for the Freedom of conscience
12, rue Campagne Première
75014 Paris

email : coordiap@libertysurf.fr
<http://perso.libertysurf.fr/coordiap>

Tell us your ideas and suggestions

With the support of CAP for the freedom of conscience

**SATURDAY
JULY 7th, 2001
from 15:00 to 18:00**

BRÉBANT HÔTEL
32, boulevard Poissonnière
M° Grands Boulevards

Round Table

ABOUT-PICARD LAW:

**WHAT DANGER
FOR
OUR LIBERTIES?**

**Better knowing it
in order to Better act**

With:
Jurists and lawyers,
Joël Labruyère, president of *Omnium des Libertés*

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WITNESS OF DISCRIMINATION:**

CONTACT US!

Pass on me your details or pass on our details to the person victim of discrimination. We can bring our advices on actions to be taken to face this situation.

CAP Coordination of Associations and Private individuals for the freedom of conscience.

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