



CAP FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE
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OSCE Warsaw

“Sects” and children: the official figures

Under the cover of fighting “sects” minority faiths are widely discredited in the media and often their right to answer is simply scoffed.

The word “sect” has already proved discriminatory in History; it has no legal definition and is charged with a strong emotional connotation. It enabled, in other times, to discredit Jews, Protestants, Freemasons, and even the Salvation Army.

In the on going campaigns stigmatizing members of minority movements, the most alarmist figures are spread by the protagonists of “sect” hunting. However, these figures are false.

In order to illustrate this point, we have gathered here below the statements of the highest authorities in the French Government who have lead investigations in the field on this subject.

Statement of the Prime Minister, Dominique de Villepin, at the National Assembly, on the 6th of September 2005¹⁸:

Answering a question from Philippe Vuilque, President of the 2005 Study Group on sects at the National Assembly, the Prime Minister said:

“The cases of physical or psychological ill-treatments of minors in connection with the belonging of one or both of their parents to a movement said to have a sectarian aspect, are exceptional.”

The other following statements were made during the hearings of the 2006 Parliamentary Inquiry Commission on “the influence of movements of sectarian character and the consequences of their practices on the physical and mental health of minors”: Extracts from Report # 3507 registered at the Presidency of the National Assembly on December 12, 2006. Summary of the hearings¹⁹.

Mr. Joël BOUCHITÉ,
General Director of “Renseignements Généraux” (Intelligence Services) at the Ministry of Interior and Development of the Territory.
(Minutes of the Hearing of 12th October 2006)

“As a matter of fact, 60,000 children on the whole national territory, this seems a lot to me. During our relationship in the field, in de-centralized government offices (“préfectures”), with the National Education, the DDASS (social services), the holiday centres and all structures dealing with youth, we never had to deal with 60,000 reporting, nor even 30,000, but a few dozen at most...”

¹⁸ <http://questions.assemblee-nationale.fr/q12/12-64579QE.htm>

¹⁹ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-enq/r3507.pdf>

Source: Report n° 3507 registered at the Presidency of the National Assembly on 12th December 2006. Summary of the hearings – page 556²⁰

**Mr. Michel GAUDIN,
General Director of National Police.
(Minutes of the Hearing of 12th October 2006)**

“I have the feeling that the phenomenon, while still preoccupying in some individual cases where children are concerned, is not a type of delinquency of such an extent that we should so much worry about it.”

Source : Report n° 3507 registered at the Presidency of the National Assembly on 12th December 2006. Summary of the hearings – page 615²¹

**Hearing of General Guy PARAYRE,
General Director of National “Gendarmerie” (Police),
(Minutes of the Hearing of 4th October 2006)**

“Organizations that fight “sects” sometimes set forth that 20,000 minors could be under the influence of sectarian movements. The lack of standards to delimit with precision the situation from which it is reasonable to talk about implication of these minors in movements still compels to be very cautious about this figure. In any case, even if they only constitute the emerged part of the phenomenon, the number of cases handled by the police is much lower than these estimations: since 2004, only 37 complaints have been registered by the police units. »

Source: Report n° 3507 registered at the Presidency of the National Assembly on 12th December 2006. Summary of the hearings – page 545²²

**Mrs. Carola ARRIGHI de CASANOVA, Assistant Manager at the Direction of Civil Affairs and the
Seals (DACS) at the Ministry of Justice.
(Minutes of the Hearing of 12th October 2006)**

“First I would like to say that two departments are in charge of illegal moving of children: the office of civil and international commercial mutual aid which takes care of about all international conventions, like about the procurement of evidences and transmission of judiciary acts, and the mission of help to international mediation for families – the MAMIF- created in 2001 within my sub-direction to help alleviate conflicts within families, either in cases when we do not succeed in having international conventions running, or in cases where we have the feeling that an agreement between the parents is possible. I would like to immediately state that we are almost never confronted to situations connected to sects.”

Source: Report n° 3507 registered at the Presidency of the National Assembly on 12th December 2006. Summary of the hearings – page 620²³

**Mr. Thierry-Xavier GIRARDOT, Director of Legal Affairs at the Ministry of National Education,
Higher Education and Research
(Minutes of the Hearing of 10th October 2006)**

²⁰ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-enq/r3507.pdf>

²¹ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-enq/r3507.pdf>

²² <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-enq/r3507.pdf>

²³ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-enq/r3507.pdf>

Mr. Thierry-Xavier GIRARDOT : “The Prevention Unit for the Sectarian Phenomena has prepared a quantitative assessment covering the most recent period: number of controls done, number of formal notices to send children to school, etc. I do not know if we have data on the whole of the period since the promulgation of the law, but during last year, we listed a bit less than 3.000 children educated within their families, we have made 1,119 checks, out of which 23 ended by a formal notice to educate the child in a school, generally not for reasons connected to sects, but simply because the education within the family did not match the requirements of the 1999 decree, included in the statutory part of the Code of Education. 7

Mr. President : Out of these 23 children, how many exactly related to the sect phenomenon ?

Mr. Thierry-Xavier GIRARDOT : I am not sure there had been even one...

Source: Report n° 3507 registered at the Presidency of the National Assembly on 12th December 2006. Summary of the hearings – page 559²⁴

**Mr. Michel RISPE, Chief of the Office of Civil and Commercial International Mutual Aid at the Ministry of Justice.
(Minutes of the Hearing of 12th October 2006)**

“To date, no case has been opened, amongst some 500 existing files in stock in which there had been allegations of sectarian belonging.”

Source: Report n° 3507 registered at the Presidency of the National Assembly on 12th December 2006. Summary of the hearings – page 621²⁵

**Hearing of Mr. Didier LESCHI
Chief of the Central Office of Worships
Ministry of the Interior
(Minutes of the Hearing of Tuesday 17th October 2006)**

“I have therefore asked, during a Pilot Committee of the MIVILUDES, that an investigation be launched with regional agencies of hospitalization and hospitals in order to take a census of, eventually, facts constitutive of trouble to law and order connected to the refusal of blood transfusion.

The representative of the Ministry of Health within the MIVILUDES told us, at the time, that this census was impossible, because of fear of procedures, the hospitals’ officials would hesitate to denounce troubles to law and order. I consider this explanation to be slight, mainly if the life of thousand children is at stake. The figure of 45,000 children of Witnesses of Jehovah has sometimes been set forth. Hospitals civil servants are protected by their statute and they have the obligation to report punishable facts to the Prosecutor.

In view of this hearing, I have asked the “prefectures” to take a census, on the last three years, of incidents connected to transfusion. A small number of incidents came up, often settled by discussion. No incident implicating children or a vital prognostic has been noted.”

²⁴ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-enq/r3507.pdf>

²⁵ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-enq/r3507.pdf>

Source: Report n° 3507 registered at the Presidency of the National Assembly on 12th December 2006. Summary of the hearings – page 686²⁶

**Hearing of Jean-Yves DUPUIS
General Inspector
Ministry of National Education
(Minutes of the Hearing of Tuesday 10th October 2006)**

“In view of our hearing by this Inquiry Commission, we have had an investigation very rapidly made by all inspectors of academy. During the past school year, inspectors of academy or rectors have made 19,000 reports to Prosecutors, concerning children considered to be in danger for various reasons.

When we have asked the inspectors of academy who were, amongst these children in danger, the ones who were in danger due to sectarian movements, they answered us there were 8 of them.”

Source: Report n° 3507 registered at the Presidency of National Assembly on 12th December 2006. Summary of hearings – page 574²⁷

**Hearing of Mrs. SANSY
Office of Judicial Matters on Legislation,
Director of the Judicial Protection of Youth,
Ministry of Justice
(Minutes of the Hearing of Tuesday 3rd October 2006)**

“Three years ago, we have had an investigation done by the judges for children in order to be able, likewise, to define a bit statistically what the sectarian problem could represent in the work of magistrates and educators and we noticed that it was very marginal in relation to the whole of other problems our Direction is lead to manage for the same minors, i.e. problems of violence, non schooling, professional insertion, family difficulties.”

Source: Report n° 3507 registered at the Presidency of the National Assembly on 12th December 2006. Summary of hearings – page 514²⁸

**Hearing of Mr. Etienne MADRANGES
Director of Youth and Popular Education
Ministry of Youth, Sports and Associative Life
(Minutes of the Hearing of Tuesday 18th October 2006)**

“The Ministry has set up, at the national level, a unit coordinated by a General Inspector. He regularly gathers representatives of Directions of Youth, Sports and Associative Life. He listens to experts, calls in departmental Directors, and makes sure that the politics of prevention of the Ministry is well set up.

At the local level, we have set up a correspondent in each department. These correspondents send up their information. But this is not enough. We regularly gather the regional Directors of Youth and Sports. [...]

²⁶ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-enq/r3507.pdf>

²⁷ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-enq/r3507.pdf>

²⁸ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-enq/r3507.pdf>

The sending up of information goes through the correspondents, but also through our inspectors, who inspect sports structures, holiday's centres and leisure outlets. Statistically, in the youth field, we have very little sending up of information... [...]

But we shall inspect. Statistically, since the last three years, we have had no case where we could demonstrate a deliberated imperilling of minors."

Source: Report n° 3507 registered at the Presidency of the National Assembly on 12th December 2006. Summary of hearings – page 694²⁹

**Hearing of Mrs. Françoise LE BIHAN
Assistant-Manager at the Service of French People Abroad and Foreigners in France (DFAE)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(Minutes of the Hearing of Tuesday 17th October 2006)**

Mrs. Françoise LE BIHAN: "Our service is in charge of all which concerns consular protection of French people abroad, therefore of children. So, it is in the whole of the perimeter of our actions that I have searched the ones which could interest your mission. For this, I have distinguished the illicit moving of children, forced weddings which can concern minors, the help we may have to give to French children in distress residing abroad.

In this wide set, I have found trace of only two cases presenting a connection with sectarian behavior : the first one, in Canada, has been in the news ; it concerns Mrs. Getliffe and her children ; the second one, which name I do not wish to give, concerns the father of a child taken to Switzerland by his mother. [...]"

Mr. President : "Have you not received reports on children transferred in ashrams in India ?"

Mrs. Françoise LE BIHAN : « No. For the whole of the two services composing our Direction, out of which one is in charge of the implementation of conventions of judicial cooperation and the other one of the strict consular protection, there has been no other case than the two I have just mentioned."

Source : Report n° 3507 registered at the Presidency of the National Assembly on 12th December 2006. Summary of hearings – page 666³⁰

²⁹ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-enq/r3507.pdf>

³⁰ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-enq/r3507.pdf>



« Sects » and children : Miviludes 2009 report

In the Miviludes 2009 report, Georges Fenech, as President of the Miviludes, did a full review of the problems that could have occurred in EU countries regarding children and so called “sects”.

Results of the review made clear that no real problem existed in Europe regarding this issue. For example, the review of the UK is reported in the report in the following way³¹: *“The sect phenomenon has little impact on youth in the United Kingdom. Only a few cases have been reported”*³². As concerns Germany: *“According to the Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, which coordinates interdepartmental work on issues related to sectarianism in Germany, the report of the "Bundes Kriminal Amt" ("BKA") on the disappearances of individuals contains no reference to the sect phenomena that are the cause of wrongful removal of children.”*³³

Regarding the Czech Republic, five reports are identified by Miviludes over the past 20 years³⁴.

Regarding Portugal: *“This country does not identify any criminal activity involving a sectarian movement.”*³⁵

Regarding the Netherlands: *“Activities of movements and practices with risk of sectarian deviances is not considered a threat in itself in the Netherlands and does not constitute the subject of any specific public policy. (...)”*According to the “Council of Child Welfare” and the Department of Justice, the phenomenon of sectarianism is not subject to any registration or reporting especially in the area of child protection³⁶.

Regarding Greece: *“There are also no recent incidents in the matter of children in Greece.”*³⁷

Ireland: *“The Irish competent services in the field of sectarian affecting youth are the Central Authority in relation to child abduction under the Ministry of Justice, and the office of Minister for Children and youth. These two services could not cite any recent case of wrongful removal of children linked to sectarian movements or case of sectarianism on children.”*³⁸ Romania: *“Similarly, the specialized services of these departments have not been confronted with sectarian drift related to children.”*³⁹

³¹ Miviludes Report 2009: http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

³² Page 136: http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

³³ Page 139: http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

³⁴ Page 140: http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

³⁵ Page 149: http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

³⁶ Page 149-150: http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

³⁷ Page 150: http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

³⁸ Page 150-151: http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

³⁹ Page 152: http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

As concerns Poland: *"The relevant departments in Poland, including the Prosecutor's Office, reported no recent case of sectarianism on children."*⁴⁰

In Lithuania, no reports regarding sectarian cases: *"In addition, the French notion of "sectarian deviance" is foreign to the Lithuanian approach regarding movements or religious groups which are all listed in the Department of Justice."*⁴¹

Regarding Italy: *"No specific information regarding sectarian affecting minors can be reported during the past year, whether from the interior ministry, or from the Ministry of Social Affairs."*⁴²

Regarding Finland: *"The different movements also considered as risk present in Finland, do not seem to be reported as abuses involving children or youth."*⁴³

Regarding Latvia, Albania and Malta: *"The embassies had no knowledge of missing children, parental conflict regarding the placement of children in sectarian organizations or sectarian deviances on children."*⁴⁴

In Luxemburg: *"The Department of Justice indicates that the Prosecutor General's Office reported no domestic case of wrongful removal of children in connection with sectarian movements and no special consideration was currently underway at the Department of Justice on the issue of sectarian aberrations affecting minors."*⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Page 153: http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

⁴¹ Page 153: http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

⁴² Page 154 : http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

⁴³ Page 154 : http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

⁴⁴ Page 154 : http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf

⁴⁵ Page 154 : http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/francais/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf



Religious Discrimination in France: report 2011

Introduction

International human rights organizations have warned that the French government has retreated from its mandate toward respecting religious pluralism. In spite of the principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment, the French government has determined to arbitrarily classify religious groups into two separate categories: 1) religions viewed as law-abiding and beneficial to society; and 2) "sects" or "sectarian movements" viewed as dangerous to society, which are the targets of oppressive and discriminatory measures, and which the government declares must be "fought" against.

No Western democracy would admit to being intolerant of minority faiths or being opposed to religious liberty. The tactic used to discriminate against targeted minority faiths in France is to redefine the notion of "religion" to exclude disfavored minority groups. Although the United Nations Human Rights Committee, the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Religious Freedom, the Human Rights Directorate of the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, human rights groups, scholars and experts in the field have all called for a broad, inclusive definition of religion which is consistent with notions of pluralism, minority rights, freedom of conscience and religious liberty consistent with standards mandated by human rights instruments, the French government has adopted a restrictive classification system designed to marginalise, ostracize, and stigmatize targeted minority faiths.

This type of classification has resulted in the stigmatizing and blacklisting of hundreds of minority religious groups as "sects" in France. There is no rational justification for such classification. Indeed, classifying religious groups into "religions" and "sects" or "sectarian movements" is itself a violation of religious human rights standards. It is impermissible and arbitrary for the government to confer benefits on groups it classifies as "religions" while denying benefits and enacting oppressive measures against groups it classifies as "sects" or "sectarian movements".

This false perception of the danger of "sects" underlies the current climate of discrimination currently waged against religious minorities in France. This is the climate in which repressive laws and administrative measures regarding minority religious freedom are being proposed and implemented.

As detailed below, the current oppressive measures and actions by the French government to abuse the judicial process to target the Church of Scientology and other minority religious groups and their followers and to bias judges against such groups and their members interferes with the independence of the judiciary, contravenes the right to a fair hearing, violates the principles of non-discrimination and equality at the heart of justice, and represents an attempt to improperly single out and repress minority religious organizations through bad faith prosecutions and trials steeped in prejudice.

Scientology

Malton Criminal Proceedings and Appeal

By way of background, this case arises out of the five-month participation in 1998 by the main civil party in Scientology religious practices. These included the study of Scientology scriptures and the participation in spiritual counseling.

In 2006, the original prosecutor dismissed this investigation because it was so weak that eight years of inquiry failed to disclose any evidence of wrongdoing. The case was only resurrected by a new prosecutor in 2008 due to intense political pressure from anti-religious extremists in the French government. That pressure continued unabated through the trial and the appeal by the presence in court of UNADFI, an anti-religious hate group that was ultimately ruled to be inadmissible as a civil party, yet whose bigoted rhetoric was permitted to poison the proceedings, turning the case into a witch hunt and heresy trial that could not withstand scrutiny under international human rights law or the First Amendment.

In October 2009, the Paris Trial Court issued convictions against a Scientology Church in Paris, the Church's bookstore, five Church staff members on charges of fraud and illegal practice of pharmacy. The sentences consisted of fines for the entities and suspended sentences for the individuals found guilty of fraud and a fine to the individual found guilty of illegal practice of pharmacy.

In September 2011, only one month before the trial at the Paris Appeals Court, the French Ministry of Justice, advised by MIVILUDES, issued a Circular enjoining Magistrates to collaborate with UNADFI, the main government-sponsored anti-sect association which filed as a civil party in the case, and instructing them to consider religious practices such as purification and initiation courses as "behavioral practices" susceptible to constitute "psychological subjection". As the accusation against the Church of Scientology which was going to be examined by the Court of Appeal concerned allegations of fraud through the alleged psychological subjection of its followers, this instruction constituted a direct undermining of the independence of the judiciary and the defendants' right to a fair trial. The Church filed a complaint with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers on 10 October 2011 which is pending.

Before the Appeals Court, the defense lawyers attempted to address the glaring defects and unjust treatment found in the first instance trial and in the whole procedure. From the outset, the appellate proceedings were characterized by arbitrary and discriminatory rulings completely unsupported by the law and the facts and in violation of Scientologists' fundamental constitutional freedoms and human rights.

The Court also refused to dismiss UNADFI as a civil party in the case at the outset of the appellate proceedings even though there was no legal basis for the association to be included in the proceedings. UNADFI had participated in the trial below and was permitted to participate in the appeal even though the Trial Court and the Court of Appeal, in their final decisions, determined it had no legal basis to intervene in the

proceedings. This was a major issue in the case as UNADFI is an extremist group dedicated to fighting against religious groups derogatorily labeled as “sects” and engaged in hostile and bigoted rhetoric designed to poison the proceedings.

The environment in the Court was so prejudicial that, in November 2011, defense attorneys walked out of the proceedings in protest, refusing as a matter of conscience to participate in appellate proceedings that had degenerated into a charade. This is a rare and serious situation in France

The Court, instead of postponing the hearing to ensure that the defendants had new lawyers to ensure their defense, suspended the hearing for 20 minutes and then resumed without bothering about providing the defendants with legal counsel. . One defendant who lives abroad and was represented, asked for her attorney to be replaced but the Court did not answer her request, and continued the trial without any defense attorney or defendants in the Court room.

The decision rendered on 2 February 2012 confirms the one from the lower Court, sentencing the two legal entities and the members of the Church for fraud, levying fines for all and suspended sentences for four of the individuals. This constitutes an impermissible attack on the religion in violation of the fundamental right to freedom of religion.

The Church will appeal to the Cassation Court to raise the critical legal and constitutional challenges ignored by the Court of Appeals in contravention of the Rule of Law. The Church is hopeful that these serious defects in the proceedings will be addressed and remedied in this appeal. If necessary, the Church will go to the European Court of Human Rights where Scientology Churches have already won two unanimous decisions upholding the rights of its members. (*Church of Scientology of Moscow v Russia* in 2007 and *Kimlya v. Russia* in 2009)

Discrimination and Harassment of Scientologists

Several companies saw their bank accounts closed the moment it was known that their directors or board members were Scientologists. Michel Raoust, a Scientologist who has a very successful engineering company, had both his personal and his company accounts closed by the HSBC bank.

The Celebrity Centre in Paris has been recurrently subjected to harassment and assaults from masked and hooded anti-Scientology demonstrators of “Anonymous”, a group of criminal extremists, which members have been convicted in the US for illegally hacking and blocking Scientology web sites. They recently attacked the web sites of the White House and the Elysées Palace after the US and French governments adopted some internet regulation against illegal downloading. Some of their members were arrested and detained for these actions in France. The leader of the French Anonymous group attacking Scientologists at Churches of Scientology in Paris has been criminally convicted twice, once for public insults and once for threats.

For example, on 22 January 2011, an illegal Anonymous demonstration took place at a Church of Scientology in Paris with no permit or other legal authorization. The demonstrators were masked and hooded (which is illegal under French law) and violently attacked Scientology parishioners. Two demonstrators tried to enter the Church premises by force and a member of the Church was assaulted, both verbally and

physically, by an individual who held scissors as a weapon in his hand and made death threats against him.

The police were called and came but they only spoke to the demonstrators who stated that the individuals involved in the assault were not with them. The police left without speaking with the members of the Church who had called them and who had evidence (photos, bailiff certified report) that the aggressors were stirred by the demonstrators to do what they did.

A few weeks before, the Church had contacted the Mayor of the 17th District of Paris (where one Paris Church of Scientology has its premises) to let her know about vandalism and hate crimes following these demonstrations (e.g., throwing stones and breaking the front window;, vandalizing the reception area; and placing offensive graffiti on Church walls, etc.). However, nothing had been done to protect the Church or its parishioners. Only after the third “demonstration” in 2011 did the Prefect of Paris who had been asked for help by the Church send policemen to ensure protection.

These violent “demonstrations” by Anonymous regularly occurred in 2011, altogether a dozen of times during that year. On 2 February, 2012, the Mayor of the 17th District, who did nothing to protect the Church from harassment and assaults in 2011, publicly called for the Minister of Interior to shut down the Scientology Church in the 17th District.

Sessions of Indoctrination Against Religious Minorities

Training of Magistrates by Miviludes

As detailed in the September 2011 MIVILUDES Newsletter, the training of Magistrates on the subject of “sectarian deviances” continued at the National School of Magistrates. Hundreds of Magistrates have been trained since 1998 by MIVILUDES, which uses uniformly biased and derogatory information for this training provided by anti-sect associations it works with.

Based on documents released under the Freedom of Information law, the “training” provided so far to the judges, police and other officials, could be better labeled as indoctrination of Magistrates since, far from being general briefings on sectarian drifts, it has included specific briefings on Scientology, Jehovah's Witnesses and other targeted groups, with information provided by speakers of government-sponsored anti-sect associations and without any possibility of contradiction, debate or rebuttal by the concerned groups. As part of the documents distributed to the attendees, hostile press articles and only negative court decisions were provided, omitting decisions from higher judicial authorities directly contradicting those decisions. Positive jurisprudence has been completely ignored.

From 23 to 25 May 2010, the training was delivered to approximately one hundred Magistrates, some from other countries in the European Union, as well as to other civil servants such as police, justice officers for the protection of youth and prison personnel.¹

New “anti-sect” Curriculum at French University Paris-Descartes

¹ See the newsletter at : <http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/no10-mai-septembre-2011?iddiv=5>

This year, MIVILUDES organized a new curriculum on “sectarian subjection” at the Paris-Descartes University where social workers, justice professionals, psychiatrists and medical workers are “trained” to take questionable actions such as identifying so-called “sect victims”, even if these persons adhere to religious minorities on their own will and have never asked for assistance or complained. The curriculum also covers how to make an “exfiltration” from a sect, a very questionable practice of forced de-conversion like “deprogramming”.

This curriculum includes 144 hours of lectures and analysis of practical cases in each course by having apostates give their stories about the minority religion they have left. It is organized by the Secretary General of Miviludes, Hervé Machi, a psychologist, Sonya Jouglà, who was quoted in Mr. Fenech’s 2008 program² saying that “*it is even more difficult to protect a child from his parents’ beliefs than from their beatings or their incestuous sexuality*” and Jean-Pierre Jouglà, administrator of UNADFI, a state funded anti-sect association.

As in the earlier trainings, the stress will be put on specific movements which will be stigmatized by apostates and considered *de facto* as dangerous cults without any possibility for them to refute the accusations against them.

Stigmatization of Religious Minorities by Government-Sponsored Anti-Sect Associations

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief Asma Jahangir, in her report of 8 March 2006 (E/CN.4/2006/5/Add.4) after her visit to France in September 2005, found: “However, she [the Rapporteur] is of the opinion that the policy and measures that have been adopted by the French authorities have provoked situations where the right to freedom of religion or belief of members of these groups [religious groups or communities of belief] has been unduly limited. Moreover, the public condemnation of some of these groups, as well as the stigmatization of their members, has led to certain forms of discrimination, in particular vis-à-vis their children”. (§108)

She recommended that “the Government monitor more closely preventive actions and campaigns that are conducted throughout the country by private initiatives or Government-sponsored organizations” (§113) and urged the Government “to ensure that its mechanisms for dealing with these religious groups or communities of belief deliver a message based on tolerance, freedom of religion or belief”. (§112)

Far from complying with this recommendation, the government has let government-sponsored organizations such as UNADFI and local ADFIs continue their stigmatization of religious minorities, and has even fuelled prejudice into the public directly through its government agency MIVILUDES.

The Church of Latter Day Saints

The Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) community in France has applied for a building permit to build a Temple to the Mayor of Le Chesnay (not far from Versailles) on 5 August 2011. The permit was granted on 27 October 2011.

² See his report « La justice face aux dérives sectaires » (Justice Facing Sectarian Drifts), La Documentation française, 2008.

The inhabitants, whose fears have been stirred up by ADFI since the Mormons' project was known,³ circulated a petition to have the Mayor repeal his decision. The leaflet distributed with the petition refers to detailed files held by UNADFI on the LDS, which is accused of engaging in a certain number of sectarian practices, such as: proselytizing, absolute devotion to their leaders, allegiance to a living prophet and mandatory payment of a tithe. These characteristics could actually apply many religions and are used discriminatorily to stigmatize "sectarian movements".

In the media reproduced on UNADFI's web site,⁴ the President of ADFI Yvelines expressed her concern in November and December 2011 about "the aspects of mental subjection" of the Mormon Church "which has huge financial demands". She noted that one has to pay the tithe of 10% of one's income in order to go to the Temple, adding that this Church is incredibly rich.

Tabitha's Place

This religious community established in the South of France in Sus, expressed last year its intention of acquiring new lands and expand the community. This created immediate reaction of the government and a meeting of the local representatives of all the State services was organized on 12 July 2011 to discuss the group's "various projects of acquisition and expansion" according to the head of the Prefect of Pyrénées-Atlantiques' office.⁵

Their concern was based on the annual report 2010 of MIVILUDES dedicated to the alleged "unprecedented resurgence" of the activities of apocalyptic movements in France. A chapter of the report concerned Tabitha's Place and described it as "a Christian religious movement of fundamentalist and apocalyptic type of north-American origin which justifies all life by a strictly literal reading of the Bible which has to be studied everyday and known perfectly in all circumstances".⁶

At the occasion of the projects of acquisition of new lands of the community, the local media reproduced the accusations of MIVILUDES labelling the community as a fundamentalist and "closed" sect, but paradoxically "suspected of proselytizing" in particular by distributing leaflets to Catholic pilgrims on their way to Saint-Jacques de Compostèle.

Opus Dei

An association linked to Opus Dei was tried at the Paris Criminal Court (Tribunal Correctionnel) on 22 and 23 September 2011 under the accusation of illegal work.

The woman who initiated the proceedings, Catherine T., started working at the hotel school Dosnon, an apprenticing centre established in a castle in Couvrelles near Soissons (North East of France), in 1985 when she was 14. She later on made vows and joined the Opus Dei when she was 16 and became a house worker. She decided to file a complaint after she met with members of ADFI North who reported on their web site: "she worked for over fifteen years for a very controversial organization, the Opus Dei. She was

³ See article of Le Parisien of 21 June 2010 : <http://www.leparisien.fr/yvelines-78/les-mormons-veulent-construire-leur-temple-21-06-2010-972106.php>

⁴ See <http://www.unadfi.org/installation-contestee-d-un-temple.html>

⁵ See <http://www.larepubliquedespyrenees.fr/2011/07/12/la-secte-de-sus-reste-sous-surveillance,203176.php>

⁶ See p. 88 : http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/ra2010_mise_en_ligne.pdf

subjected to undue influence, mental manipulation together with detrimental facts which, bit by bit, affected her health, her liberty and her dignity” and “ADFI North brings its unconditional support to those who are the only victims of this painful case: Catherine T. and her family”.⁷

In the complaint filed in 2001, her lawyer put forward allegations regarding “mental manipulation”, “mind-numbing conditions of work” and “economical dependency”. After a nine year investigation, two members and a legal entity, “l'Association de culture universitaire et technique (ACUT)”, were tried in September 2011 for “remuneration contrary to dignity” and “undeclared work”.

Although the charges were based on the Labor Code and not on the “About Picard” law on abuse of weakness, the plaintiff complained that she was “made to practice” religion for years. She tried before the Court “to put forward mental manipulation which is characteristic to sects, described as the natural functioning of Opus Dei”. She was represented by a lawyer who represents the anti-sect association UNADFI in other cases, who declared that she had been subjected to “modern slavery”.⁸

On 24 November 2011, the Court rendered its decision and acquitted the two members and legal entity of Opus Dei. The Court ruled that the accusations of undeclared work were not established and that if “some salaried persons assume various unpaid functions”, “this choice of volunteering has been done without constraint”.⁹ The State Prosecutor and the plaintiff appealed the decision.

On 21 September 2011, the former representative of the OSCE for the fight against discrimination against Christians and followers of other religions, Massimo Introvigne, denounced the misinformation in certain media resulting in discrimination against Opus Dei in France. In the Roman media Zenith¹⁰, he explained that a complaint concerning labor law had been used to launch a campaign of discrimination against Opus Dei and the Catholic Church in general.¹¹

Transcendental Meditation

In February 2011, members of the Town Council of Sidiailles, a small village in the centre of France, discovered that the members of an estate company which had signed a sales promise to acquire some land in the village were followers of Transcendental Meditation (TM). They searched for information on the movement and found out that it was listed in the Parliamentary report on sects of 1995 and that anti-sect associations did not like it.¹²

According to the media, fear spread amongst inhabitants concerning this movement and public opinion became hostile to their project of acquisition, although what was envisaged was to build a residence for retired persons dedicated to ecology, renewable energies and the consumption of organic products.

⁷ See <http://www.adfi59.net/spip.php?article369>

⁸ See UNADFI's magazine Bulles, n° 112 p. 36

⁹ See <http://www.francesoir.fr/actualite/justice/opus-dei-apres-une-relaxe-parquet-fait-appel-160529.html>

¹⁰ See <http://www.zenit.org/article-28998?l=french>

¹¹ See for example the article titling « obvious sectarian dimension » : <http://www.20minutes.fr/paris/792888-derives-opus-dei-mises-lumiere-barre>

¹² See <http://www.francesoir.fr/actualite/societe/sidiailles-c-est-secte-au-village-104715.html>

On 24 May 2011, alternatives to purchase of the land by TM through acquisition of the property by the city was to be debated by the city council but the Mayor – who had agreed with the acquisition by TM - did not show up. She alerted the media that she had been the victim of “violent attacks” from the City Council, which suspected her to advocate on behalf of the sect.

Virgin Mary Prayer Group in Corsica

On 16 December 2011, Agnès M., the head of the association Ave Maria of Jesus (“Ave Maria de l’enfant Jésus”) was charged with abuse of trust, abuse of weakness and fraud on vulnerable persons; she was then incarcerated pending trial. This former auxiliary nurse was accused of defrauding thousands of euros to followers by asserting to receive for nearly twenty five years messages from the Virgin Mary.

The Messenger was always wearing a prayer suit and a white veil, and a neon cross three or four meters high was erected in the garden of a village inhabitant, where Agnès and followers would sing and dance in nuns’ habits.

The Public Prosecutor of Bastia, who is also a member of MIVILUDES, stated to the media “They are very clearly sectarian drifts. We have interrogated members of the association and all of them continue to support her when some of them have given a lot of money. The investigation is still ongoing but we speak of very important amounts”.

The association consisted of only around twenty members, but the remittal of funds had happened over several years. The investigators are searching for former victims who had voluntarily left the group, as they had no complaining victims.¹³

Kidnapping Nice

In August 2011, in Nice , a couple forced their 24-year old daughter into their car, handcuffed and drugged her, to take her in a wheelchair to Corsica. The parents claimed that her boyfriend belonged to the Antoinist movement, which is classified as a sect in a Parliamentary report. They added that “anti-sect associations advised us to make her do a break of at least one month and a half by withdrawing her from this harmful environment”. Both parents were subsequently charged in September 2011 for kidnapping and sequestration.¹⁴

Exporting the French “Anti-Sect” Policy Abroad

MIVILUDES tries by any means to export its French “anti-sect” policy to other countries, especially in Europe and at European institutions level. In 2011, meetings of MIVILUDES with the representatives of various European countries have occurred while laws have been introduced and passed resulting in restrictions of freedom of religion and conscience in these countries. This is the case with Belgium and Kazakhstan.

¹³ See <http://www.leparisien.fr/faits-divers/la-messagere-de-la-vierge-ecrouee-pour-escroquerie-17-12-2011-1773093.php>

¹⁴ See article in Nice Matin, 26 September 2011, “Les parents ont enlevé leur fille pour la sortir d’une secte” (Parents kidnapped their daughter to take her out of a sect).

In 2010, at an anti-sect conference held by FECRIS¹⁵ in London, Mr. Fenech, MIVILUDES' President, declared he had been heard by the Belgian Parliament and promoted a draft bill equivalent to the French About-Picard law on the repression of abuse of weakness, designed at targeting proselytizing of religious minorities. On 7 May 2011, Mr. Fenech did the introductory speech of a conference of FECRIS in Warsaw on cults, and André Frédéric, Belgian Member of Parliament, presented the new Belgian bill on abuse of weakness he drafted. On 26 October 2011, Mr. Frédéric participated in the celebration of the ten years anniversary of the About Picard law at the French National Assembly and gave a speech where he underlined the collaboration of Mr. Fenech, UNADFI's President Mrs. Picard, and MIVILUDES and UNADFI concerning the Belgian bill on abuse of weakness being debated at the Belgian Parliament.

But this "About-Picard" law, named after its authors, contravenes the Council of Europe's Recommendation 1412 in which it considered that major legislation on sects was undesirable on the grounds that such legislation might well interfere with the freedom of conscience and religion guaranteed by Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights as well as harm traditional religions.

Indeed, during the vote of the About-Picard law in 2001 the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights as well as the leaders of the major French traditional religions condemned this special law derogating from common law. It was adopted to repress minorities of religion or belief by criminalizing the "abuse of a state of ignorance or a situation of weakness of a person under psychological subjection". This new penal offence with its vague and undefined terms allows prosecution of any proselytism or conversion to religious beliefs or practices considered as deviant by advocating an alleged "psychological subjection".

On 6 October 2000, 14 Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe signed a proposal expressing their concern with this law and the fact that it classifies 173 religious groups as "sects", a negative term rejected by the Council of Europe in a Committee of Legal Affairs Report in 1999 (Doc. No. 8373). On 26 April 2001, 50 members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe signed Declaration 321, whereby they expressed their concern against this law and recommended that it be withdrawn (Doc. No. 9064). And on 18 November 2002, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted Resolution 1309 (2002) on the About-Picard law, calling on the French government to "reconsider the law".

The European Court of Human Rights noted in its *Jehovah's Witnesses v. Russia* decision of 10 June 2010 that there is no generally accepted and scientific definition of what constitutes "mind control" and that as long as the members of this religious community had made a voluntary and conscious choice of their religion and followed its doctrines of their own free will, their right to freedom of religion should be respected.

Far from following these European human rights standards, MIVILUDES continues its policy of exporting the "French model" of discrimination by advising countries like Belgium to enact legislation similar to the About-Picard law. The Belgian law has now been adopted by the Belgian Parliament.

According to the last bi-quarterly letter of MIVILUDES of September 2011, MIVILUDES President met on 6 April 2011 with Lord Konstantin Bendas, Vice President of the Union

¹⁵ "European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Sectarianism" is nearly entirely financed by the French State.

of Evangelist Christians of Russia, to brief him about the French model of vigilance and fight against sectarian drifts. Lord Bendas expressed his wish to invite the President of MIVILUDES in Russia, in particular to explain to the Duma the organization, the functioning and the missions of MIVILUDES, as well as the French law on abuse of weakness. Mr. Fenech answered that he would be pleased to accept such an invitation to go to Moscow.



CAP FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

2012 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING OSCE Warsaw

Stigmatization of Minorities of Religion or Belief within the School System

4. The Inter-ministerial Mission of Vigilance and Fight against Sectarian Drifts (MIVILUDES), placed directly under the Prime Minister in France, has set in place a policy that directly contradicts Article 18.4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (the “Covenant”) which provides:

4. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

5. For years, France has had a policy of stigmatization and negative stereotyping of minorities of religion or belief it first labeled as “sects” or, since a Prime Minister Decree of 2005 prohibiting such practice, it now labels as “sectarian movements”. This derogatory classification corresponds to the improper assessment of religion or beliefs and the consideration that some of them are “deviant”.

6. In his 2008 Report “Justice and Sectarian Deviances”, the President of MIVILUDES explained the need to protect children from their parents’ beliefs, approvingly quoting a psychologist who stated regarding children “victim of sects” that “it is even more difficult to protect a child from his parents’ belief than from their beatings or their incestuous sexuality”.

7. In MIVILUDES Annual Report 2009, under the heading “Assimilation of the sole beliefs of the movement”, the President of MIVILUDES, Mr. Fenech, explained that children brought up in a context of “sectarian subjection” are ideologically isolated because they are subjected to a unique and exclusive discourse, for example by the daily repetition of a credo of allegiance to a superior entity or the substitution of a mythical discourse to rational explanations. According to him, such education - which could correspond to the raising of children in any religion - enslaves and diminishes the possibilities of the child.¹

8. He concluded by this question: “If such a [psychological] risk is established, isn’t the solution, as very often, to protect the young, and mostly the teenager, from a univocal vision of the world by arranging for him, giving the largest place possible to the non-follower parent, some windows on other realities, and this even if he, in the exclusive sphere of his follower parent, has blossomed, works well at school and does not complain about anything?”²

9. Thereby, in cases of family conflicts and whatever general affirmations to the contrary, MIVILUDES recommends to not give equal rights to parents who are members of targeted religious minorities

¹ http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf, p. 128-129

² http://www.miviludes.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/rapport2009_mise_en_ligne.pdf, p. 214

and suggests an encroachment of the parent's rights presenting it as a "solution" to protect children from their parents' beliefs, in violation of Article 18 of the Covenant and Article 14.2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

10. But what MIVILUDES' President derogatorily refers to as "mythical discourse" as opposed to rational explanations is precisely belief in the sense of the religious freedom principles articulated in the International Human Rights Instruments signed and ratified by France. He considers that some beliefs are acceptable while others are not and assesses their legitimacy, in total violation of his duty of neutrality as a State agent.

11. For parents who belong to religious minorities he labels as "sectarian movements", MIVILUDES' President recommended unusual procedures in domestic family law. In his 2008 Justice and Sectarian Deviances Report, the President of MIVILUDES recommended that family conflicts with "a sectarian background", although civil cases, be referred to the General Prosecutors who would check for penal offences, that they be assigned to specialized family judges, who would themselves be assisted by professionals (social investigators, psychologists) specially trained in "sect" matters.

12. Indeed, due to the vagueness of the concepts used, MIVILUDES' President explained in the 2009 Report that repression of sectarian movements will not be efficient if the Judges and social workers dealing with the Protection of the Youth are not specially informed on what movements and practices should be targeted with these measures:

However, as regards specific knowledge of the sectarian context, the actors of the protection of children are still lacking detailed and updated information. Due to the extremely fast evolution of the movements and practices, the personnel in charge of children matters must be kept informed of the variety of situations in a regular and precise manner.

13. Mr. Fenech recommended further information and training of these personnel as part of their continuing education on the various movements and practices which should be considered as "sectarian" by the Judges and social workers adding that "Only on the condition of this preliminary step can prevention and repression of the sectarian phenomenon be really efficient".

14. The "training" on sects has already been given by MIVILUDES in the form of seminars on "sectarian deviances" proposed to the Judges, Prosecutors, Police and Youth workers as part of their continuing education. It has revealed to be entirely based on one-sided derogatory information on religious or belief minorities without any possibility for the concerned communities to contradict the accusations it contained.

15. The seminars delivered to Justice Agents have included briefings on specific minorities of religion or belief, with information provided by the two anti-sect associations UNADFI and CCMM, and without any possibility of debate or rebuttal by the concerned groups. As part of the documents distributed to the attending Justice personnel, press articles hostile to these groups were provided.

16. The above policy and recommendations of MIVILUDES have been implemented and they inevitably result in an infringement of the rights of believers to educate their children in their own faith and in discrimination.

17. Back in 2006, Mr. Fenech, who was a Member of the French National Assembly at the time, chaired a Parliamentary Enquiry Commission on "children and cults". The Commission interrogated dozens of members of the Government and of Government agencies, and the answers were

uniformly that there were only very few or none cases related to “sectarian movements” reported by each branch of the Ministries of the French government.³

18. However, in furtherance of the French ideological policy of repression, a new Circular has been enacted on 22 March 2012 (Circular N° 2012-051) by the Ministry of National Education addressed to education authorities of primary and high schools entitled “Prevention and Fight against Sectarian Risks”.

19. Contrary to the preceding Circulars of 14 May 1999 and 26 December 2011 which provided merely and legitimately for control of the acquisition of knowledge and level of education of children receiving education at home, this Circular provides for the identification of “sectarian risks” by the National Education personnel. This has led to visits by national education agents to parents belonging to minorities of religion or belief whose children were doing “at-home” correspondence courses delivered by a State recognized organism. The national education agents were checking for any ideological or religious motivation behind the choice of the parents to take their children out of the regular school system.

20. The Circular provides the following explanation of what constitutes a “sectarian risk”:

“A situation of sectarian risk, for a child, is therefore the one in which some views and practices are imposed on him with the exception of any other views or practice. This situation is likely to harm his intellectual development, his social integration and finally his attainment of autonomy. The risk concerns not only the content of the knowledge passed on, the possibility of access to the values and pluralism of democratic societies, but also the possibility for the child to develop and exert a critical mind, an independent judgment. The context can be family, or even community: the child is then likely to be under the undue influence of views and practices threatening his education; or extra-family: the child is then likely to be subjected to views and practices which can be harmful to him either: - at school (through the teacher, his friends, an association delivering services at school or distributed literature), or at tutoring associations or during a stay with a family abroad”.

21. This constitutes discrimination and a direct violation of the right of parents to raise their children according to their own beliefs protected by the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

22. Per the Circular, National Education personnel (teachers, Principals, etc.) have the duty to denounce any child and family suspected of “sectarian drifts” to the special units created for “the collection, processing and assessment of worrying situations” (CRIP) in each of the French Departments, or to the Public Prosecutor.

23. In parallel, MIVILUDES and the French Ministry of Education launched during the last years a campaign against “sects” in schools. Posters are put in schools and the subject is addressed with the students during civic education courses.

24. This has led to situations where children of members of religious or belief minorities attending these courses have been put under pressure by the teachers and even principals to criticize or recant their parents’ faith.

³ <http://www.freedomofconscience.eu/2011/08/the-handling-of-the-new-spiritual-mov/>

25. In her report following her official visit to France on 18-29 September 2005, Asma Jahangir, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, noted as regards “new religious movements or communities of belief”:

108. However, she is of the opinion that the policy and measures that have been adopted by the French authorities have provoked situations where the right to freedom of religion or belief of members of these groups has been unduly limited. Moreover, the public condemnation of some of these groups, as well as the stigmatization of their members, has led to certain forms of discrimination, in particular vis-à-vis their children.

26. The UN Rapporteur made the following recommendations:

112. The Special Rapporteur urges the Government to ensure that its mechanisms for dealing with these religious groups or communities of belief deliver a message based on tolerance, freedom of religion or belief and on the principle that no one can be judged for his actions other than through the appropriate judicial channels.

113. Moreover, she recommends that the Government monitor more closely preventive actions and campaigns that are conducted throughout the country by private initiatives or Government-sponsored organizations, in particular within the school system in order to avoid children of members of these groups being negatively affected.

27. Instead of complying with these recommendations from the United Nations, MIVILUDES continues to implement a policy of stigmatization and discrimination which violates the rights of believers under Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Human Rights Committee General Comment N° 22 and the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

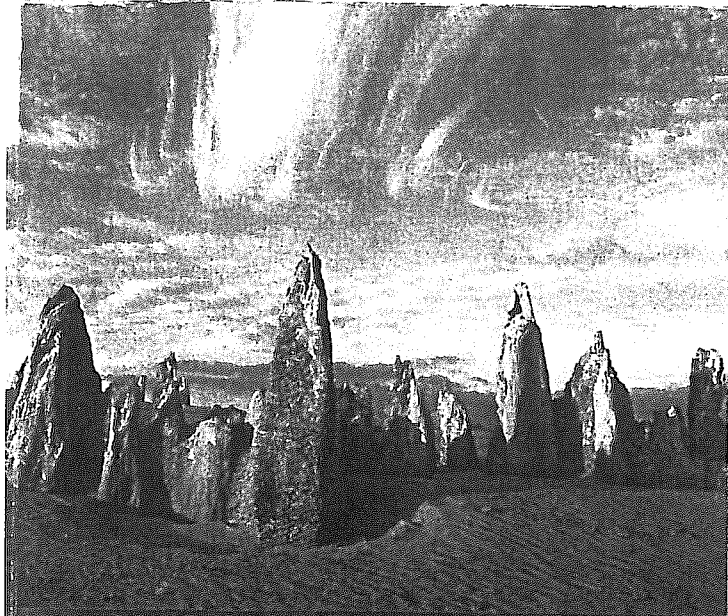
CONCLUSION

28. The Recommendations made to France have not been implemented. To the contrary, the rights of individuals belonging to religious minorities are continuously and increasingly jeopardized by its policy of repression of beliefs it deems “deviant”.

29. It is time for France to comply with its international commitments as regards freedom of religion or belief and freedom from discrimination.

Contact : contact@coordiap.com

Enc. Lesson on “sects” in a school manual featuring Rael and Moon



PREMIÈRE SÉRIES TECHNOLOGIQUES



IMPACT

Anglais



HACHETTE
Éducation

Mind Control

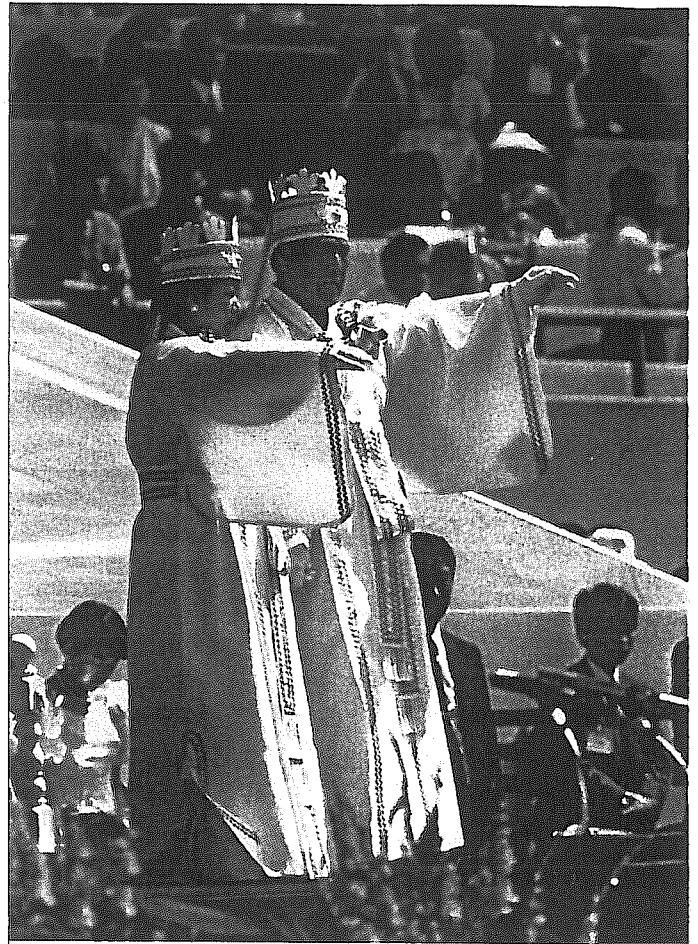
1 What Is a Cult?

A cult is a group or movement that uses mind control and devious recruiting techniques to manipulate its followers. Through calculated methods of persuasion, cults brainwash the people they have recruited into doing what the cult leader tells them to do. The goal of these manipulators is the acquisition of power or money, or both. Their victims risk mental slavery.

Everybody should be aware of a few misconceptions about cults:

- “Cults are easy to spot; members wear strange clothes and live in communes.” Some do, but most recruiters dress, talk and act normally: cult leaders don’t want people to know that they are being recruited into a cult.
- “Cults are full of weak, emotionally unstable people.” Not true. Many cult members are very intelligent, attractive and skilled. All sorts of people are involved in cults.
- “Cults are just religious fanatics.” Not necessarily true. A religious system is often used, but it is the manipulating techniques that make a cult.

1. Pick out the words with negative connotations in paragraph 1.
2. Find equivalents for these words in the rest of the text: *repérer – communautés – s’habillent – faibles – qualifiés – impliqués.*
3. Why is it important to know about the common misconceptions about cults?



Gemma/K. Kurita

POD LECTURE



Fanatics Are Nothing New

Read the statements below. Then listen to the recording and say whether they are true or false. Justify or correct when necessary.

1. The Puritans came to America in the 17th century.
2. The Puritans were persecuted.
3. They were coming from Holland.
4. The Pilgrim Fathers were Puritans.
5. Their rules were very strict.
6. Card playing was banned.
7. They enjoyed theatre plays.
8. They accused many women of being witches.
9. Salem is in New England.
10. Women who were considered witches were hanged.

2 Mind Control Techniques

In Britain alone, it is estimated that there are 500 active cult movements today, and the number may be 3,000 for the US. Cults brainwash people. Their techniques include:

- using hypnosis, disguised as relaxation or meditation;
- giving love and using peer pressure to suppress resistance;
- communicating subliminal messages in long, complicated lectures;
- removing clocks and watches to suppress a sense of time,
- encouraging child-like obedience;
- depriving people of sleep to lower resistance;
- using abusive language to increase vulnerability;
- making people go without eating or follow special diets, to deprive them of necessary nutrients;
- enforcing dress codes to remove individuality;
- singing repetitive chants for persuasion;
- using confession to destroy ego and reinforce the need for "salvation;"
- making members donate money to increase dependence,
- promoting acceptance of cult authority;
- isolating people from families, friends and society;
- arranging cult marriages and "families."

1. Find synonyms for the following in the document:

friends or colleagues – present but invisible or inaudible –

bad words – nourishing ingredients in a food – make stronger

2. Use information from the document and these adjectives to complete the sentences below:

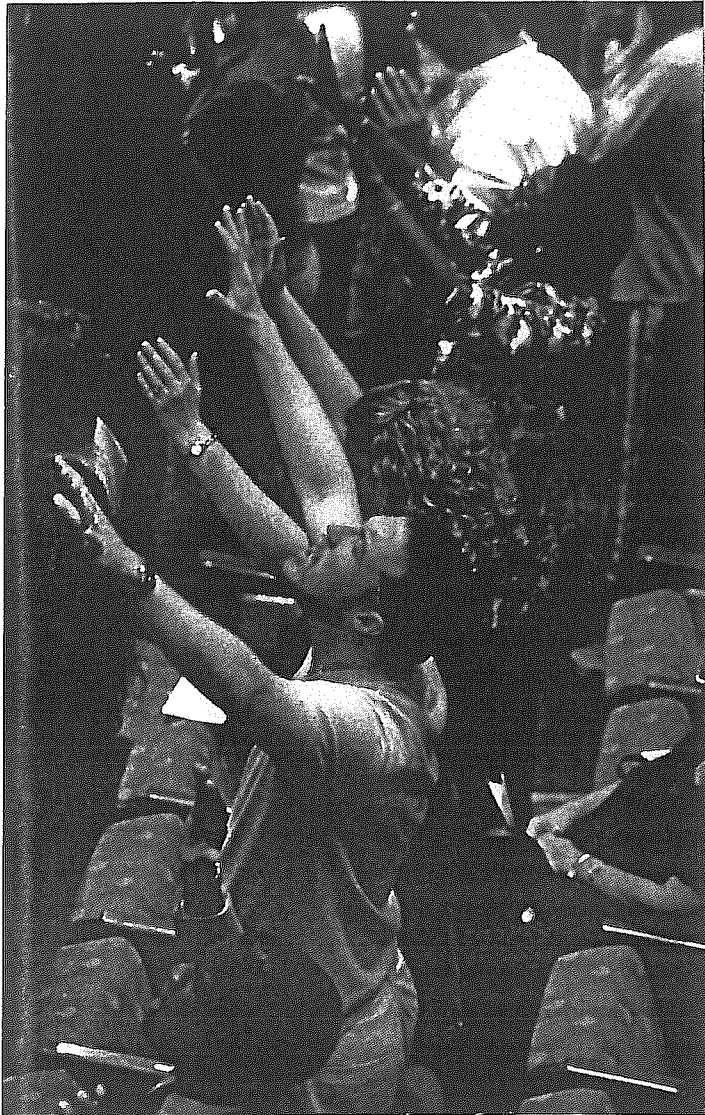
vulnerable – independent – curious – confused – obedient –

dependent – individualistic – self-assured – free – resistant –

physically weak – financially independent

• In order to make their members..., cults...

• In order to prevent their members from being..., cults...



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© Die der Archer/The Granger Collection

Action



Make a one-minute speech.

Today is *Beware of Cults Day* at school.

Prepare a speech to warn students against the dangers of cults. Start like this:

"If you have just met some incredibly friendly people who want to introduce you to a fantastic leader, beware!"

TEXT FILE 1

COMPREHENSION

Before you read

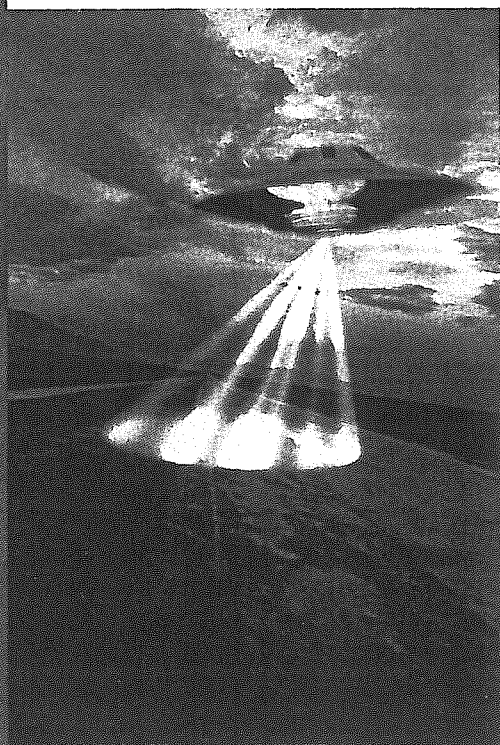
1. Judging from the pictures and the headline of the text, guess what the story is about.

Read lines 1 to 11

2. Check your guesses.

Read the whole text

3. Find the names of the cult and its founders, and the number of members.
4. Give as much information as possible about the two cult leaders and their faith.
5. In 1974, they were imprisoned. Why? What happened on their release?
6. Pick out all the elements from the text referring to the cult members' activities and beliefs.
7. Find as much information as possible about the suicides. Did the members all die at the same time?
8. Quote elements describing their feelings and beliefs before dying.
9. Who and how do preachers and cult leaders recruit? Find reasons why people join cults.
10. Cult leaders are described as "charismatic messiahs." Explain and give your opinion.



© Getty/Photographer's Choice/A. M. Rosario

COMPO DICTO



1. Listen to our recorded summary.

2. Use the words below to summarize the text.

- 39 – cult – found dead – mansion – San Diego
- committed – suicide – leader
- believing – angels – thought – picked – UFO – heaven
- men – victims – messiah – claimed – group suicide – leads – heaven
- naïve people – victims – preachers – cult leaders – Internet

3. Listen again and complete.

WORDS

1. Complete these sentences.

Lines 1 to 11

- a. To add or to mix is to l...
- b. Religious men living in monasteries are called m...
- c. A recompense for a service is a r...

Lines 12 to 27

- d. Your f... is what you believe in.
- e. When you go back to work after a pause you r... your work.
- f. A person who believes anything is g...

2. Choose the right meaning.

- a. hasten (line 8):
cause to happen faster – detest
- b. exclusive (line 16):
not willing to make friends – reserved for rich people
- c. devise (line 24):
invent – share
- d. fail (line 28):
come down – not produce the desired result
- e. hazard (line 32):
chance – risk

Action



Record a radio news item.

Prepare a short presentation about the mass suicide for the local radio station and record it.

A Spaceship to Heaven

1 First, they packed their suitcases neatly and dressed themselves
in black – shirts, pants and tennis shoes. Then, one by one
over a period of several days, they ate applesauce or pudding
laced with a barbiturate and chased it with vodka. Finally,
5 again one by one, they lay down on cots or bunk beds and,
joyously believing they were destined to rendezvous with a
*heaven-bound UFO, put plastic bags over their heads to
hasten death. Two members of the Heaven's Gate cyber-cult
remained alive to remove the plastic bags, drape the 37 bodies
10 in purple *shrouds and tidy up. Then, they killed themselves
the same way.

The 21 women and 18 men of Heaven's Gate, many of them
computer programmers who called themselves monks, are the most recent victims
of charismatic messiahs who claim that group suicide leads to spiritual rewards.

15 The Heaven's Gate commune, led by former *choirmaster Marshall Applewhite,
rented the huge mansion in the exclusive *Rancho Santa Fe area in October for
\$10,000 a month. Milton Silverman, the owner's lawyer, told reporters that the
celibate, *teetotalling, non-smoking tenants belonged to a religious computer group
and believed they were angels.

20 Applewhite, their 66-year-old leader who died with them, was the son of a
Presbyterian minister who worked as a choral director at the University of Alabama
in the 1960s. After a near-fatal heart attack, he left his wife and two children to
embark on a nomadic life with Bonnie Nettles, a nurse he met during his
convalescence. This is when they devised their own faith, called "The Process," in
25 which they presented themselves as heavenly messengers from outer space.

In 1974, they persuaded a group of Oregon townspeople to give away all their
possessions, and their children, and travel with them to Colorado to be picked up by
a spaceship. When the spacecraft failed to appear the following year, the pilgrims
became fed up. "Bo" and "Peep," as Applewhite and Nettles then called themselves,
30 were jailed briefly for possessing stolen credit cards. Afterwards, they resumed
preaching.

Experts suggest that now preachers are not the only hazard for naïve people; they say
cult recruiters use the Internet to impression gullible people.

Rae Corelli and Anne Gregor, *Maclean's*, April 1997



© 1997/Reporters/Al. Van Cappellen

- * heaven-bound UFO: an unidentified flying object flying to heaven
- * shroud: cloth for covering a dead body
- * choirmaster: a man in charge of a group of people singing together
- * Rancho Santa Fe is located outside San Diego
- * teetotalling: non-drinking (no alcohol)

GRAMMAR FILE

Les articles

- They believed they were destined to rendezvous with a heaven-bound UFO.
- They put plastic Ø bags over their heads to hasten Ø death.
- Two members of the Heaven's Gate cyber-cult remained alive to remove the plastic bags.
- The death of the Heaven's Gate cyber-cult members shocked a lot of Americans.
- Ø Experts suggest that now Ø preachers are not the only hazard for naïve people; they say Ø cult recruiters use the Internet to impression gullible people.

PRACTISE

- Justifiez l'emploi des articles en gras dans les phrases suivantes.
 - Ø Cults brainwash Ø people.
 - Many of the Heaven's Gate cyber-cult called themselves Ø monks.
 - A cult is a group or movement that uses Ø mind control and Ø devious recruiting techniques to manipulate their followers.
 - The French government has listed the cults they find the most dangerous.
- Corrigez l'erreur dans chaque phrase.
 - The cult leaders want power and money.
 - Cults resort to the mind manipulation to recruit their members.
 - The Moonies are quite popular in USA.
 - Gurus resort to the peer pressure to suppress resistance among their new members.
 - Cult members give money they earn to their gurus.
- Traduisez.
 - L'Église de scientologie est présente dans le monde entier.
 - Les sectes utilisent des méthodes de persuasion bien calculées.
 - Les méthodes de persuasion utilisées par les sectes sont variées et efficaces.
 - L'hypnose, dissimulée sous forme de relaxation ou de méditation, est une des techniques utilisées pour manipuler les adeptes des sectes.
 - Les gourous attendent une obéissance aveugle de leurs adeptes.
 - Les leaders privent les membres de leur secte de nourriture pour les rendre plus vulnérables.

OBSERVE

- Dans la phrase *a*, pourquoi a-t-on utilisé l'article *a* ?
- Dans la phrase *b*, justifiez l'emploi de l'article Ø devant *bags* et devant *death* (nom dénombrable ou indénombrable ? qui renvoie à une non-détermination, à une généralité, à une notion ?).
- Dans la phrase *c*, justifiez l'emploi de *the* devant *plastic bags*.
- Dans la phrase *d*, justifiez l'emploi de *the* devant le mot *death* (renvoie-t-il à quelque chose d'unique, est-il déterminé par *of* + groupe nominal ?).
- Dans la phrase *e*, justifiez l'emploi de l'article Ø devant *experts*, *preachers*, *naïve people*, *cult recruiters* et *gullible people*. Expliquez pourquoi on a l'article *the* devant *Internet*.

➔ Précis grammatical 16 17 et 18

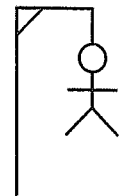
Action



Play the hangman game.

Work in pairs. You have 2 minutes to make up one sentence using at least 6 of the words below.

In turn, each group represents each word of their sentence with one dash ("_____") on the blackboard. The rest of the class tries to guess the sentence. Whenever the class is wrong, the hangman builds up.



Nouns & pronouns: I – girlfriend(s) – café – spider(s) – hotdog – plate – week – hair – soup – bread – me – her – customer(s) – salad – waiter – worm(s)

Verbs: invite – order – get – find – shout(ing) – look (at) – swallow – feel – be – have – go – run away – leave – wait (for) – drop – smile

Adjectives: nice – little – long – last – fat – huge – hot – cold – mad

EXPRESSION FILE



Action

Talk: Choose your survival kit

The situation

To prove to Guru Nahasi that you are worthy of entering the sect of the survivors, you must spend 2 weeks with three other applicants on a desert island and survive by your own means. You are only allowed to take five objects with you.

The procedure

1. Individually choose and rank five items you want to take with you. (3 minutes)
2. Work in pairs to agree on a common list. (6 minutes)
3. Discuss in groups of four to choose a common list giving reasons for your choice. Be careful, you only have 10 minutes, if no agreement has been reached before time is up, Guru Nahasi will not take you in his sect!
4. One student from each group then presents their group's choices to the teacher who decides who to take.

Action

Speak up: Manipulate your friends

As you need financial contributions from the class, you have decided to start your own phoney sect. Prepare a speech to convince the class to join in and give you money!

The procedure

1. Choose the name of your sect, your new nickname and what the aim of your sect will be.
2. Prepare the arguments you are going to use to convince your friends (notes only).
3. Practise your speech.
4. Make the speech in front of the class. You have to talk for at least 2 minutes.
5. Everybody votes to decide who will be the new class guru.

Action

Write rules

You have been elected "new class guru."
Write the rules of your new sect.

➔ Refer to your Workbook for guidelines.