



Canadian Raelian Movement

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Mister the President, Misters and Misses the members of the Commission,

My name is Eric Remacle for the Canadian Raelian Movement, part of the new worldwide atheist religion, the International Raelian Movement, created 30 years ago and now represented in 90 countries on all five continents. We bring a third hypothesis for the origin of life on earth.

We appear for the first time before you to testify to the OSCE concerning the numerous discriminations suffered for many years by the members of the Canadian Raelian Movement.

These discriminations consist of incitation to hatred by publishing, without our consent, some photos of our members in slanderous articles of the main newspapers, **losing jobs** for being part of our religion, **refusing to publish our right of reply** in the press when we were defamed (among our 120 last replies, only 3 were published), **other refusals of our freedom of expression** such as, for example, the refusal to rent us a conference room, **the refusal to let us take part in public demonstrations, the double standards regarding justice** when, for example, our complaints are rejected while other complaints from any other organization would be accepted, **injurious speeches from most of the political leading figures**, etc.

We have available for you the complete file of these discriminations in regards to our freedom of expression.

It is important to mention this problem affects only the French part of Canada, meaning the province of Quebec. This situation echoes several discriminations recently imported from the French-speaking part of Europe and especially from France.

This is the reason why, facing this intolerable situation for a country calling itself civilized, we request OSCE to react and remind the Canadian government of its duty to respect religious minorities on its territory, by according the same rights guaranteed to its other citizens and notably the right to freedom of expression.

More specifically we request:

1. **From the provincial government (Province of Quebec):** public excuses from the deputy, Pauline Marois, head of the Parti Québécois and aspiring Premier Minister of Quebec, for the several insults she professed in the media to our philosophical Leader, calling him insane. It is highly unacceptable for a person aspiring to this responsibility to use such disdainful remarks in disrespect of the Quebec's Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

2. **From the provincial government (Province of Quebec):** a public investigation to be done by the National Assembly on the methods used at the Human Rights and Youth Rights Commission. In our opinion, the members of this Commission and the people responsible for evaluating the complaints proved partiality and even discrimination regarding the complaints filled by Raelians. We think there is a double standard and this governmental organization is not practicing its role in complete objectivity. To prove our point, more than fifteen complaints have been filled by members of the Raelian Movement and for the vast majority, they were rejected; and this, regardless of undeniable proofs of discrimination (videos, letters, audio recordings, etc.) The Commission has always found motives, sometimes even bizarre ones, not to process our complaints.

3. **From the federal government (Canada):** an official recognition of the Raelian Church as a religion and a charitable organization in order to benefit more efficiently from the protection of the Charter of Human Rights.

4. **From the provincial and federal governments:** an unequivocal condemnation of all the media which convey discriminatory and disdainful remarks propagating prejudices and sometimes even prompting incitation to hatred towards the Raelian Church and its members.

5. **From the provincial and federal governments:** a reform of the civil procedure regarding the legal proceedings for defamation against the media. At the moment, it is almost impossible for a defamed citizen, who sees his honour and reputation stained by the media, to initiate legal proceedings in front of a court of justice because the costs are too extravagant. The media are extremely rich industries, hiring lawyers all year round to represent them, while the modest working citizen or the small minority organization, with limited financial resources, absolutely cannot initiate legal proceedings to obtain reparation for the prejudices they suffered. As a result, there are very few legal proceedings for defamation; the media are aware of the situation and are thus tacitly encouraged to continue their defamations, as long as they are profitable for them. A reform is therefore mandatory in order to put an end to this type of practice.

6. **From the provincial and federal governments:** a project of law to force civil tribunals to allow a larger compensation for defamation cases. Effectively, in Quebec, if one is found guilty of defamation, the compensation allowed for reparation is ridiculous in comparison to the cost for legal proceedings (in the order of 1 to 10). This situation discourages people, among which the Raelians, to begin legal proceedings against the media for defamation because they simply cannot afford it. The Media are clearly aware of this and are abusing the situation.

All Raelians are proud of their religion and they will continue their non violent fight for freedom and for a better world without discrimination. We are sick of being stigmatized like the Jewish people were 50 years ago, and treated like second class citizens!

Peace and love to all those who will help make this world a world of freedom and tolerance!