

## **2024 WARSAW HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE**

**Warsaw, 30 September to 11 October 2024**

**Plenary Session 6: Rule of Law II, including:**

**- Independence of the judiciary**

**- Democratic law-making**

**- Right to a fair trial**

### **Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience**

I will raise serious concerns regarding France's adherence to international standards of freedom of religion and belief. Regrettably, it appears that this French exception has permeated into the nation's judicial and police institutions, leading to the troubling phenomenon of unfair trials in cases linked to religious or spiritual movements.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which France is a signatory, clearly stipulates the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. However, the reports from many international NGOs and institutions highlight the French government's funding and support of anti-religious associations, which directly contravenes these fundamental principles.

Furthermore, the Swiss critique of the MIVILUDES agency casts a troubling light on the opaque methodologies and imprecise data employed in the guise of "deradicalization." This has resulted in the marginalization and stigmatization of various religious and spiritual communities, denying them their rightful place in French society.

In conclusion, we call on the French government to thoroughly review its policies and practices towards the religious minorities to ensure compliance with its obligations under international human rights treaties. The protection of freedom of conscience and belief for all must be a paramount concern, in order to ensure the independence of the justice and a fair trial for all the French citizens regardless of their belief.