Minister of Health and Care Services

13 July 2021

Notice of civil disobedience and cannabis sale at the main Police station in Oslo

AROD refers to the previous correspondence where the Minister of Health was informed of the responsibility for the persecuted population in the field of intoxicants, as well as a letter of 14 June 2021, in which the Minister referred to the Norwegian Parliament’s treatment of the drug reform and rejected personal responsibility. For a number of years, we have tried to get the Norwegian state to recognize international obligations in this area of law and we do not find the Minister of Health's answer reassuring.

On the contrary, the Minister is familiar with the Royal Commission’s detection of public panic as formative to drug policy and has received documentation of the connection between this phenomenon, unconsciousness, scapegoating, arbitrary persecution, and human rights crimes. The Minister is informed that there is the same mismatch between the human rights principles and drug policy as it was before between these principles and the prohibition of homosexuality, and we are very disappointed with the Minister’s lack of commitment.

After all, the Minister has all the essentials to understand the injustice of drug policy. As an openly gay man, the Minister is part of a group that was previously hunted by the police due to an orientation that others, with no right, can interfere with. Principles such as equality, self-determination, proportionality, and the presumption of liberty invalidate state intervention, and the most relevant difference between homosexual people and drug users is that the latter has had to suffer far more for their beliefs; that the state's responsibility has not yet been recognized; and that we are dealing with a far greater legal scandal.

While the prohibition on homosexuality was mostly dormant and only few received punishment, the police resolve around 30,000 drug cases a year. The effort put into this operation is far more organized, far more totalitarian, and it is astonishing that the Minister of Health has no qualms about leading the way in oppression. It happens on the Minister’s watch after the Minister is sufficiently informed to know better. Therefore, the AROD will set up an outlet for cannabis outside the police station on September 11, 2021, so that we can use the right of review of the law.
Our most renowned lawyer, Johs. Andenæs, mentioned the right of review as a core point in the rule of law, and the AROD will use the judicial system to do the job that politicians refuse.

According to the principle of separation of powers, the population can use the judicial system to promote an effective remedy, and we expect the police and prosecutors to support our mission.

We do not do this to provoke, but to bring the issue of sales to light and to assert the human rights of the persecuted population. By setting up this shop, we not only mark the blind zone of the Norwegian drug policy reform but we provide better laws and give the rule of law redress. As recently shown in Mexico and South Africa, when the political process fails, it is up to the citizens to ensure human rights protection and that is what the AROD does.

Hence, we are looking forward to September 11, 2021 with an expectation that everything will go smoothly and that we can have the case processed in the court system as soon as possible. We have given the police and the Prosecution Authority all the relevant information, and we will include the book Human Rising as our procedural claim.

With that, everything will be arranged for a fair trial. The Minister of Health can follow the process on this blog which is dedicated to the case, and we look forward to getting the Norwegian drug reform on track, with or without the help of politicians.

Yours sincerely,

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President of the AROD,
The Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies