



Republic of Lebanon  
Ministry of Public Health

September 20, 2018

## **Regarding the 2019 High Level Session of the 62 Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

Dear Sir/Madam.

With the legalization of Cannabis, Canada, Paraguay, and the United States have been named by UN officials as in violation of international law. And as Lebanon has shown interest in new drug policies, we expect that your country will side with these states at this meeting. Lebanon, then, can expect to meet the same prohibitionist opposition, even though it has been steadily waning.

There is a reason for this. With the passing of time, it has become all the more obvious that the cure (the drug law) is worse than the disease (drug use). And as more and more constitutional courts are invalidating the drug law, those who look closer will find that these countries are merely at the forefront of a movement which is set to right the mistakes of previous administrations.

Because principles of autonomy, equality, proportionality and the liberty presumption are found at the heart of the UN and Western tradition, it is easy to make a case against the prohibition regime based on First principles, and our organization has prepared a work that Lebanese officials would do well to review before the UN meeting.

Arguing from First principles, it shows how drug prohibition has informed Western society over the course of generations. As is shown, drug policy is a political, not an evidence-based construct, and it only persists because of an unhealthy level of moral panic. Indeed, when all is said and done, unconsciousness and powerpolitics have been the prime shapers of drug policy, and this book will give those who agitate for change a solid foundation and vision to draw upon.

As is shown, drug prohibition is historically similar to other mass-movements gone wrong in that it is the result of scapegoating, humanity's unfortunate tendency to blame politically



weak groups for problems that are a collective responsibility. As humanity matures, we must do away with this great force of injustice, and we ask that it be delivered to those officials and agencies tasked with defending Lebanon's approach to drug policy.

As will be seen in part three, the book also contains invaluable information for those concerned about issues of national security. It cast's light on a largely ignored chapter of world politics and those loyal to the Constitution will find that it is a powerful tool to do away with the single greatest threat facing humanity. We therefore also ask that it be delivered to individuals and agencies with a responsibility for social justice.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Roar Mikalsen'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roar Mikalsen,  
President of AROD  
The Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies.