



Bureau de la sécurité intérieure
Pôle polices administratives
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September 19, 2025

Thank You for Cooperation on June 2025 Strasbourg Protest and Invitation to Advance the Rule of Law

Dear Bureau de la sécurité intérieure,

On behalf of the Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies (AROD), I extend our sincere thanks to the Bas-Rhin police for their exemplary cooperation during our peaceful Requiem for the Rule of Law protest on June 23–24, 2025, outside the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in Strasbourg.

The French police's professionalism and restraint ensured a safe environment for civil society to highlight cannabis prohibition's corrosive impact on human rights and the rule of law across 46 CoE nations. This collaboration exemplifies your officers' commitment to democratic principles, and we are grateful for it.

As a tool for meaningful change, we invite you to engage with our documentary [Requiem for the Rule of Law: Shadows of Prohibition and the Dawn of Awakening](#).

This film, especially made for the French police, exposes how six decades of prohibition—rooted in fear rather than evidence—have undermined judicial integrity, fostering scapegoating, disproportionate enforcement, and a \$300–500 billion global black market with no proven public health benefits. It demonstrates why the cannabis plant, when properly regulated and processed, can restore integrity to justice systems in the 46 CoE nations by aligning policies with ECHR Articles 3 (inhuman treatment), 6 (fair trial), 8 (private life), 13 (effective remedy), and 14 (non-discrimination). Regulation, as in Germany and elsewhere, protects public health while upholding proportionality— principles long ignored in favor of punitive approaches, as echoed in France's 2021 Senate report on cannabis regulation critiquing enforcement costs (€570 million annually) and ethnic disparities in arrests.

The film argues that charging activists like us for documented cannabis-related acts of civil disobedience is an opportunity: it would force courts to scrutinize prohibition's legitimacy,



potentially sparking the paradigm shift needed for Europe's human rights framework. We believe the French police, as guardians of the law, can lead this by bringing charges against AROD for the violations observed during our Strasbourg action, enabling a merits-based review that honors France's republican values.

To clarify the rule of law crisis prohibition perpetuates—evident in ECtHR dismissals of challenges like Mikalsen v. Norway (2012, 2023, 2024) without reasoned analysis—we provide the following checklist. Modeled on assessments submitted to Norwegian and CoE authorities, it poses objective questions with expected answers based on verifiable facts from CoE reports, national commissions, and expert analyses. We urge the Bas-Rhin police to verify these, as inaction could perpetuate systemic HR issues under French law (e.g., Article 66 of the Constitution) and ECHR standards.

Question	Expected Answer	Justification and Source
Have jurists disputed prohibition for decades, calling for proportionality analysis?	Yes	Since the 1960s, scholars have argued drug laws overreach criminal law's harm/proportionality principles. See Sanford H. Kadish (The Crisis of Overcriminalization, 1968); Richard Bonnie & Charles Whitebread (The Forbidden Fruit and the Tree of Knowledge, 1970); John Kaplan (Marijuana: The New Prohibition, 1971); Johs Andenæs ("Liberalising av Narkotika?", 1994); ECtHR application 2025 .
Have reports over 20 years recommended decriminalization based on penal principles?	Yes	Critiques span 130+ years: Indian Hemp Drugs Commission (1894); Panama Canal Zone Report (1925, US); LaGuardia Committee Report (1944, US); Wootton Report (1969, UK); Shafer Commission (1972, US); plus NOU 2002:4/2019:26 (Norway); Pompidou Group (2021); CoE Baseline Study (2019, Doc. 14927); French Senate (2021—enforcement costs/disparities).
Has the ECtHR for 15 years dismissed challenges to cannabis prohibition without examining merits or providing	Yes	Since 2010, in Mikalsen v. Norway (2012, 2023, 2024), single-judge decisions labeled claims "manifestly ill-founded" without point-by-point review, violating ECHR Art. 6 (S.A.S. v. France,



reasoned analysis, breaching fair trial principles?		2014, para. 129); See ECtHR application 2025 ; AROD’s Truth and Reconciliation Report (2025)
Have national courts cited ECtHR dismissals to refuse proportionality reviews of prohibition, denying effective remedies?	Yes	Oslo City Court (November 25, 2024) barred ECHR/UN evidence, upholding §231 convictions; Appeals Court affirmed, citing ECtHR, perpetuating 17-year suppression since 2008. See Human Rising, 2020 ; ECtHR application 2025
Has prohibition's enforcement created systemic bias, scapegoating minorities and eroding judicial independence?	Yes	Experts highlight parallels to historical persecutions; the fallacies of prohibition have been confirmed by reports for 60 years, and the French Senate (2021) notes ethnic arrest disparities, but the US and European justice system has failed to provide effective remedy. See Constitutional Challenges to the Drug Law (2017) ; Mikalsen v. Norway: Moving a Nation Forward (2023) ; ECtHR application 2025 ; AROD’s Truth and Reconciliation Report (2025)

This checklist reveals how prohibition insulates policy from scrutiny, breaching equality of arms and fair trial rights—issues your cooperation in June helped spotlight. To advance resolution, we formally invite the Bas-Rhin police to charge AROD with the cannabis violations already documented during our Strasbourg protest. This would allow us to challenge prohibition's legitimacy in French courts, providing the effective remedy denied at the ECtHR and fostering the integrity the film envisions.

Absent such action, we will return to Strasbourg in summer 2026 with expanded peaceful civil disobedience, including more public cannabis demonstrations, to compel judicial review. We remain open to dialogue and a meeting to discuss how AROD can support your role in upholding justice. Thank you again for your partnership in June—together, we can align law with evidence and human dignity.

Yours sincerely,

Roar Mikalsen
 President
 Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies (AROD)