Grønland Police Station

17 July 2021

Inquiry about contact with the Police

The AROD refers to previous correspondence. We have not yet heard from the police after filing a complaint on the Progress Party’s (FrP) health policy spokesperson, and we ask that the matter be given priority. We also ask, in connection with a civil disobedience campaign, for a contact person with the police. As is apparent from previous correspondence, our press release, as well as this letter to the Minister of Health, the political process has failed. We will therefore have a cannabis sale outside the police station on Saturday 11 September, 2021 at 13:00 hours, and we want everything to go smoothly.

Campaign for Human Rights

The AROD does this not to provoke, but to bring the issue of sales to light and to promote a long-overlooked catalogue of rights. It is the job of the police to protect wholesome values and the rule of law, so we invite the department to show its better qualities. We all have an interest in resolving the most important issue of public policy since the Second World War; from a constitutional and societal perspective, the need for a human rights analysis is urgent, and the police will be judged based on the events of 11 September, 2021. We therefore want the best possible cooperation in this campaign. At the same time as we understand that, from the perspective of the law, there are obvious concerns.

In this regard, we see a contact person as a way of dealing with these concerns, and we explain the most apparent ones.

(1) Where does the cannabis come from? As an organization which is dedicated to human rights, the AROD is in contact with politically engaged people. Among other assistance, we have provided advice on the rights of medical cannabis patients, and we will have some surplus material available from this group.

(2) How much is involved? The total amount will be somewhat above the proposed limit as discussed by politicians. This is to point out the blind spot of drug policy and trigger the state's obligations to the persecuted groups.

(3) The AROD’s leader has a four-year-old daughter. What does his commitment have to say for her safety? The Child Welfare Services have previously investigated the issue. All reports confirm that the daughter has a healthy environment and a normal growth. As stated above, complications
related to the purchase of the substances will not be a problem. The AROD has had contact with political activists and medical users for years, and we do not support criminal gangs.

We remind the police that the aim of this campaign is to provide a deathblow to organized crime and to give society back the conditions of growth that were the basis before a drug policy on totalitarian principles took us astray. The only real concern associated with the daughter's safety therefore lies in what the police can do. After more than 50 years in the service of the drug-free ideal, the society has become strongly shaped by enemy images. Not only has the law of supply and demand been distorted into one of victim and oppressor, but a culture has emerged where force and violence are used against those who see things differently.

As the police previously has arrested political activists, as well as searched their homes on the basis of their involvement in the annual cannabis march, we see it as likely that the department will not engage with more peaceful means in this campaign. Thus, the only constraint on totalitarian tactics is the constitutional angle that the more far-sighted lawyers are noticing. The Director of Public Prosecutions has supported the Norwegian drug reform based on a loyalty to the same principles as those defended by the AROD’s project; we have documented the connection between these principles, drug policy, and past crimes against humanity, and the question is not whether, but when a truth and reconciliation commission will be established. The AROD is only slightly ahead of our age, and we therefore acknowledge that there will be disagreement within the police as to how the case should be handled.

One faction will take this as an attack on everything sacred and will want to respond accordingly, while the other will understand that a greater truth is about to emerge. It goes without saying that the latter faction must lead if the police is to come out of the process with dignity, but it remains to be seen if the department is ready for the challenge.

In any case, the AROD has taken care of the most obvious concerns. The most serious obstacle associated with the project is the indignation and resentment of prohibitionists, as a principled review is a threat to a crusade that many have spent a lifetime defending. Thus, the police have a responsibility not to cause a misunderstanding about the problem, but to appear as an instrument for reconciliation.

We ask a contact person to let us know if there are other points of concern not covered in this letter. However, we assume that the most pressing question is whether there are any plausible arguments for acquittal and for this part of the equation, we refer to the available information. The press release and the letter to the Minister of Health is a good place to start, and Life Liberty Books has a blog for those who want to learn more. With that, everything should be prepared from our side, and the AROD looks forward to hearing from the police as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Roar Mikalsen
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The Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies