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Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
High Commissioner of Human Rights

September 24, 2018

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

Dear Sir.

With the legalization of Cannabis, Canada, Paraguay, and the United States have been named by UN officials as in violation of international law. Even so, as other countries (and UN bodies) in later years have moved towards this solution, we expect that the UN Human Rights apparatus will side with these states at the next UN meeting. The reform movement, 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 UN officials would do well to review before the high level session.

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 moral panic. Indeed, when all is said and done, unconsciousness and power politics 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 UN's approach to drug policy.

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.