Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

*Call for inputs: Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to the 74th session of the General Assembly on "soft law" and informal lawmaking in the global counter-terrorism architecture: Assessing implications on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms  --  Deadline 15 July 2019*

Below are some suggestions for the Special Rapporteur :

Protecting human rights and countering terrorism are actually, as we say in English, flip sides of the same coin. All other rights rest on free speech since, only with that freedom, is it possible for everyone to guarantee reciprocity, raise grievances, and debate the public good. Terrorism — by definition — denies reciprocity, privileges its demands, and identifies its beliefs with the public good. From the standpoint of “soft” law and informal law-making, then, certain options are available though they need also require support from governments:

1) Multiply the number of media outlets: the greater the number of newspapers, magazines, radio and television programs, the greater the number of those with a stake in protecting freedom of speech, rendering government action and secret associations transparent, and furthering democratic will formation. Both public and private funding can contribute to this development.

2) Sponsor legislative proposals and public forums to foster government cooperation with private social media to prevent incitements to violence. Terrorism is based on an interplay between word and deed. To constrain the latter it is necessary to constrain the former.

3) Strengthen hate crime legislation: it is quite true that the record on hate crime legislation is mixed and that, ultimately, their enforcement requires a prior commitment on the part of especially local authorities. According to the FBI, however, it is also true that murder and violent crimes in the United States have been cut in half and even property crimes have decreased with the introduction of hate crime legislation. It is no accident that the most conservative states and localities are precisely those that have most stood in opposition.

3) Fund the creation of local tolerance societies. These should sponsor debates, exhibitions, lunches and meals, and cultural exchanges between religious institutions and ethnic communities.Participants should at least have their expenses paid and, like the Ancient Greeks, they should be paid to attend events. This is money well spent. The richer and more dense the character of civil society the less likely are acts of terror.

4) Schools should require courses in the history of genocides (not one particular genocide), and what might have prevented them.The more young people know about violence against others, not merely their own community, the less likely they are to commit or endorse such violence themselves.

5) Publicizing the protection of minority rights as the fundamental principle o0f democratic rule. That requires efforts to make political participation for excluded groups easier. Terror and governmental violence, such as enforced famines, occur precisely where the group in question lacks official recognition and representation.

6) Increase the difficulty of buying and selling guns and other weapons. Set up an inquiry into the role of military video games. Consider ways of decreasing their popularity in the same way that public pressure decreased the popularity of cigarettes.

Added to those suggestions please find in attachement our report on a specific case in the Russian Federation :

"The european court of human rights invalidates application of the russian law on extremism to peaceful religious groups"

Sincerely,

Thierry Valle,

President

**Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience**

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