

Preventing and combating sectarian aberrations

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FECRIS

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Donatien Le Vaillant, Head of Miviludes

Audrey Keysers, Deputy Head of Miviludes

The missions of MIVILUDES

- **Observing** and analysing the sectarian phenomenon
- **Coordinate** preventive and repressive action by public authorities
- **Informing** the public about the risks
- **Raise awareness** and inform public officials
- **Develop** partnerships with specialised victims' associations

The composition of MIVILUDES

- ▶ The President of MIVILUDES (SG-CIPDR)
- ▶ The Head of MIVILUDES
- ▶ Deputy Head of MIVILUDES
- ▶ 1 Magistrate
- ▶ Security Division (3 Advisers)
- ▶ Health Division (2 advisers)
- ▶ ECOFIS Division (1 Adviser)
- ▶ Minors Division (2 Advisers...)
- ▶ 1 Head of Documentation
- ▶ 1 Legal Officer
- ▶ 1 Assistant
- ▶ 1 Communication Intern

Day-to-day operations

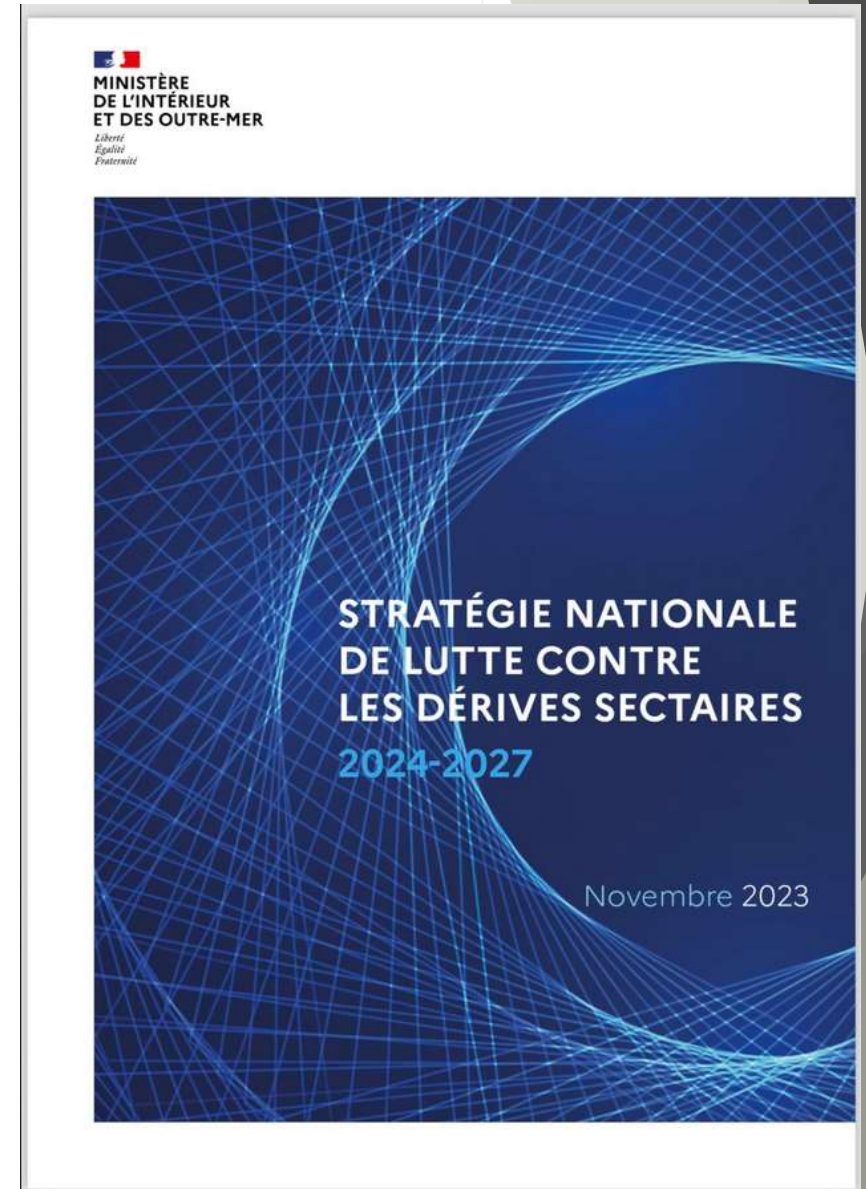
- Identification and assessment of suspected movements
- Reception, support and guidance for victims and their families
- Forwarding information to the relevant authorities and services (or putting victims in touch with appropriate contacts)
- Providing information to the general public, government departments, the justice system and even foreign countries (individuals and governments).
- Three specific actions of the Mission:
 - Information on movements, individuals and alternative health practices**
 - Practical advice on abuse of weakness, analyses, responses to judicial requests**
 - Putting people in touch with specialists (associations, judicial investigators, etc.)**

History

- **1983:** Vivien report on sects in France
- **1995:** 1^{er} : Gest and Guyard parliamentary report on sects in France, following the tragedy of the Order of the Solar Temple (74 victims between 1994 and 1997)
The report establishes a list of 172 sectarian movements and a list of criteria
- **1998** Creation of MILS
- **1999** 2^e Parliamentary report *on sects and money*
- **2001** Adoption of the About-Picard law (fraudulent abuse of a state of weakness)
- **2002** Creation of MIVILUDES (Interministerial Mission for Vigilance and Combating Sectarian Aberrations)
- **2006** 3rd parliamentary report on "*Stolen childhood: minors as victims of sects*"
- **2013** 4th parliamentary report (Senate) *Therapeutic and sectarian aberrations: health at risk*
- **2020** Transfer of Miviludes to the Ministry of the Interior by decree of 15 July
- **9 and 10 March 2023** 1st Conference on sectarian aberrations (and conspiracy theories)
- **Law No. 2024-420 of 10 May 2024 aimed at strengthening the fight against sectarian aberrations and improving support for victims**

The national strategy to combat sectarian aberrations

- Preventing the risks of sectarian aberrations (communication, awareness-raising, information, research, etc.);
- Improve the reception, support and assistance provided to "victims" (greater visibility/local facilities, training for specialists and teachers (psychologists, social workers), civil servants, associations, etc.);
- Strengthen the legal arsenal and best practices to better combat the problem.



Law of 10 May 2024 aimed at strengthening the fight against sectarian abuses and improving support for victims

The main measures:

- New offence of placing or maintaining a person in a state of psychological or physical subjugation;
- Aggravating circumstance of psychological or physical subjugation for new crimes and offences;
- New offence of incitement to abandon or refrain from providing care or to adopt practices that pose a risk to health;
 - NB: the fourth and fifth paragraphs relating to "clear and complete information" and whistleblowers are the result of parliamentary compromise amendments reflecting the current state of the law, but in cases where there is repeated pressure or manoeuvring (first paragraph), they do not appear to have any particular significance in practice.

Law of 10 May 2024 aimed at strengthening the fight against sectarian aberrations and improving support for victims.

- Healthcare professionals released from confidentiality obligations in cases of psychological or physical coercion resulting in serious harm;
- Mandatory reporting by public prosecutors to healthcare professional associations in cases of judicial supervision or convictions, even if not final;
- Improved support for victims (approval procedure for associations that can bring civil action);
- MIVILUDES' missions enshrined in law;
- New mission for the National Education System to raise awareness among secondary school pupils of the dangers of therapeutic and sectarian abuses.

Some general points

The hybrid and polymorphic nature of these movements.

MIVILUDES is not an investigative unit.

- Article 10 of the DDHC - The State must guarantee freedom of thought or belief (*"No one shall be disturbed on account of their opinions, even religious ones, provided that their manifestation does not disturb the public order established by law"*).
- Article 1^{er} of the Constitution - The State shall refrain from interfering in the sphere of individual beliefs.
- Law of 1905 - "The Republic ensures freedom of conscience and guarantees the free exercise of religion" - The State intervenes when citizens are in danger (respect for the safety and integrity of persons).

What is sectarian aberration?

Sectarian aberrations are phenomena of mental control that cause harm to people and property.

It is both a concept underpinning prevention policy and a method of analysing criminal or delictual phenomena.

Thus, a sectarian aberration is characterised by:

- the use of psychological, physical or financial pressure to exert control over a person, resulting in a state of **psychological or physical subjugation**,
- **impaired** free will
- **harmful consequences** for that person, their family and friends, and even society.

Identifying sectarian aberrations

1. Warning signs that can be spotted and described by third parties

Various types of breakdown: family, friendships, professional, health

- **On a social level:** breakdown of relationships with friends and family, separation, divorce, etc.
- **Professionally or academically:** abandonment of job, resignation, retraining for a new unregulated profession, dropping out of school, etc.
- **Health:** refusal or abandonment of compulsory treatment, refusal of vaccination, malnutrition, use of unconventional treatment practices, healing through prayer, etc.

Significant investment in the group

- Very significant financial investment, exorbitant donations to the group, purchase of services, products or training courses, etc.
- Provision of time or labour, proselytism
- Obligations imposed by the group or for community life

Identifying sectarian aberrations

Creation of a situation of dependence on the group and its leader

- Dependence on the leader (pressure, subjugation, submission), personality cult, inability to question the leader and his doctrine
- Alteration of the individual's personality (change of name, dress style, psyche, etc.)
- Demonisation of the outside world, contestation of institutions
- Use of vocabulary specific to the group (stereotypical language)
- Loss of control over personal or professional decisions and over freedom of thought or movement
- Loss of privacy, which can be exploited by and for the group



Identifying sectarian aberrations

2. Warning signs that may be detected during victim testimony

Use of manipulation and mental destabilisation techniques

- Alternating between praise and criticism (guilt-tripping)
- Emotional manipulation
- Gathering personal/intimate information and then exploiting the victim's weaknesses
- Induction of false memories
- Pressure, humiliation, intimidation, persuasion techniques, emotional manipulation

Deprivation and control of daily life

- Control of lifestyle, hyperstimulation, loss of autonomy, infantilisation
- Sleep deprivation
- Food deprivation, imposed diet (fasting, deficient diet, etc.)
- Loss of free will and critical thinking

Identifying sectarian aberrations

Physical, psychological, sexual and financial exploitation

- Physical and psychological violence
- Serious neglect, acts of abuse
- Rape, sexual assault
- Fraud, breach of trust, undeclared work, etc.

Culture of secrecy and climate of terror

- Omerta, self-control and internal denunciation
- Sanctions, bullying, threats, intimidation, surveillance
- Climate of fear, paranoia, persecution



The process of mental control

Definition of control, according to Dr Zagury: "a set of mechanisms and processes that enable one psyche to exercise complete power over another psyche, for its own benefit and without regard for the other's own desires".

Seduction: filling the gaps that cause unhappiness

Deconstruction: carefully breaking with the past and previous references: family, beliefs, etc.

Reconstruction: a new personal history, where the social rules of the past no longer apply; there are new rules. Assent (inability to say no)

Consolidation: punishment/reward; (ZEUS volcano; Loison Extreme self-punishment, etc.)

A few clichés

"It can't happen to me."

"It doesn't matter."

"They have the right to believe it."

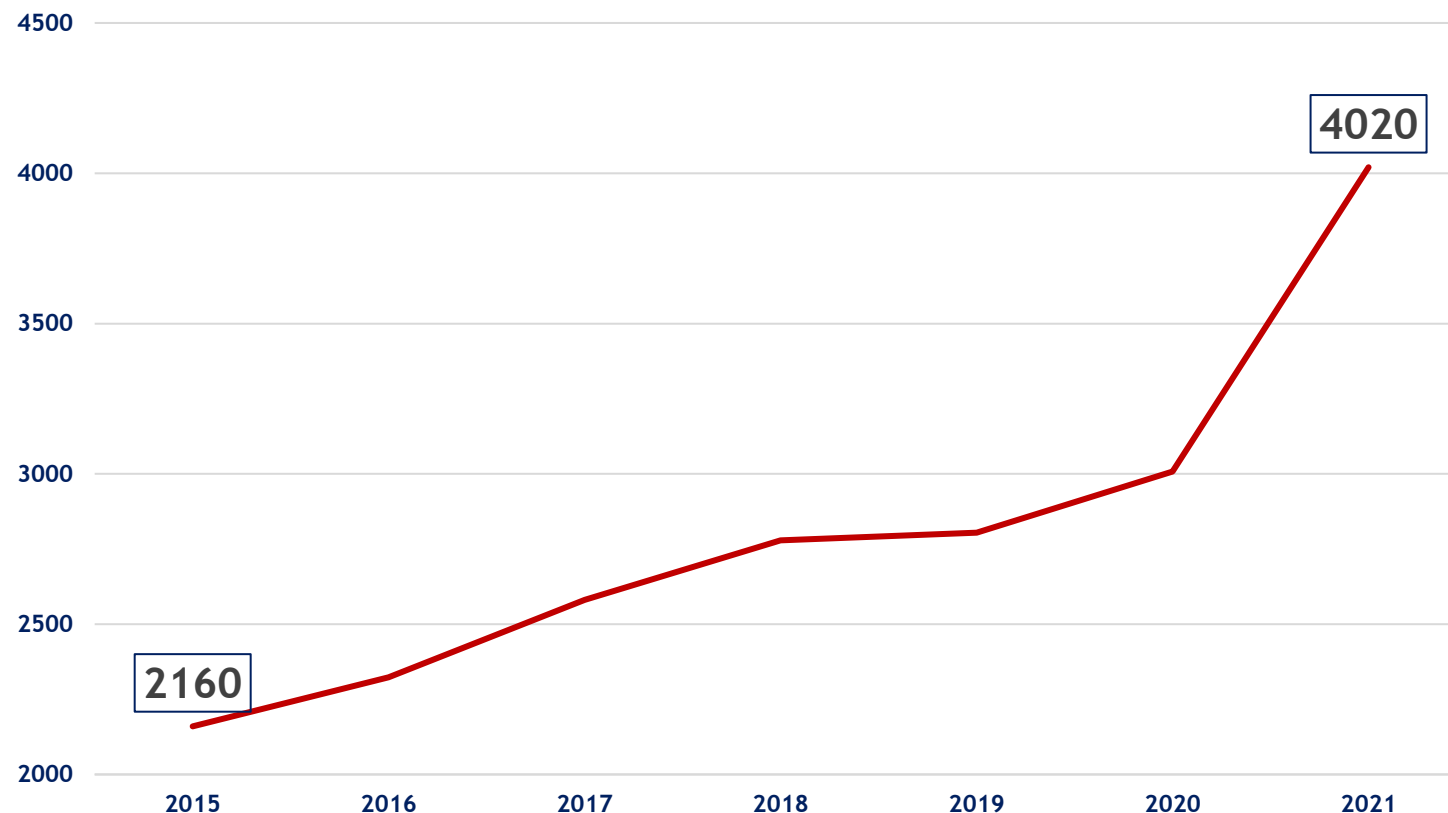
Criminal offences

- Violence
- Threats
- Harassment
- Blackmail
- Confinement
- Inciting suicide
- Fraud
- Illegal practice of medicine, pharmacy, etc.
- Endangering the lives of others
- Rape and sexual assault
- Acts of torture and barbarity
- Human trafficking
- Etc.

➔ MIVILUDES remains particularly vigilant with regard to the fate of minors

Some figures

Number of reports and requests for advice received
between 2015 and 2021



- ▶ Over 600 concerning situations reported
- ▶ Over 150 investigations underway

Nombre de signalements et de demandes d'informations



- Par rapport à 2020, ce chiffre représente **une augmentation de plus de 33,6 %** (soit 1012 dossiers supplémentaires).
- Par rapport à 2010, le nombre des signalements et des demandes d'informations a plus que doublé.

Institutional partners



Partners in healthcare

miviludes

Mission interministérielle de vigilance
et de lutte contre les dérives sectaires



ORDRE NATIONAL
DES PÉDICURES-PODOLOGUES



ORDRE NATIONAL
DES CHIRURGIENS-DENTISTES



Ordre des
masseurs-kinésithérapeutes



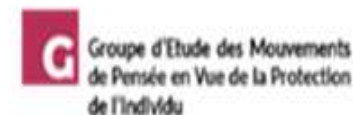
ORDRE NATIONAL DES MÉDECINS
Conseil National de l'Ordre

Associate partners



miviludes

Mission interministérielle de vigilance
et de lutte contre les dérives sectaires



Cercle laïque
pour la prévention
du sectarisme



Sectarian aberrations in the digital sphere

MIVILUDES is now responsible for:

- 1. Improving understanding of sectarian aberrations on the Internet and social networks**
- 2. Reporting illegal content**
- 3. Contributing to the analysis of systemic risks relating to the activity of major digital platforms (Digital Services Act)**

To report potentially illegal or dangerous online content, please send an email to: numerique-miviludes@interieur.gouv.fr

Example: initial search results for "beat cancer" on YouTube

The screenshot shows the YouTube website interface with the search query "vaincre son cancer" entered in the search bar. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Accueil, Shorts, Abonnements, Vous, and Historique. Below these is a section for connecting to YouTube and a list of categories under "Explorer": Tendances, Musique, Films et séries TV, Direct, Jeux vidéo, and Actualités. The main content area displays three search results. The first result is a sponsored video titled "Alternative à chimiothérapie - Nouveau traitement de cancer - Traitement révolutionnaire" with a thumbnail showing a woman in a red dress and the text "Visitez le site". The second result is a video titled "D'un CANCER du Côlon Stade 3 à une GUÉRISON Totale en 4 Mois !" by Jack's Team, with a thumbnail showing two men and the text "GUÉRISON INCROYABLE". The third result is a video titled "On peut VAINCRE le cancer et les maladies chroniques ! (émouvant)" by Jack's Team, with a thumbnail showing a man and the text "Une lueur d'espoir".

YouTube FR

vaincre son cancer

Se connecter

À propos de ces résultats

Filtres

Visitez le site

Alternative à chimiothérapie - Nouveau traitement de cancer - Traitement révolutionnaire

Le DCT peut être combiné avec tous les autres traitements, il n'a pas d'effets secondaires. En savoir plus sur cette méthode naturelle...

Sponsorisé · <https://www.immucura.com/immunotherapie/cancer>

GUÉRISON INCROYABLE

D'un CANCER du Côlon Stade 3 à une GUÉRISON Totale en 4 Mois !

732 k vues · il y a 1 an

Jack's Team

Mon GUIDE GRATUIT sur l'alimentation anti inflammatoire <https://www.jacks.team/Guide-AAI> ...

Une lueur d'espoir

On peut VAINCRE le cancer et les maladies chroniques ! (émouvant)

19 k vues · il y a 6 mois

Jack's Team

LES COMPLÉMENTS ALIMENTAIRES QUE J'UTILISE => <https://www.jacks.team/unae> Le code JACK vous donnera 10% ...

4K



Thank you for your attention!

<https://www.miviludes.interieur.gouv.fr/>