



COMMUNIQUÉ

The Sufi Alawiyya International Association

The assassination of Hervé Gourdel

We must put an end to the horror and barbarism

Paris, September 26th 2014 - Referring to the unjustifiable murder of Hervé Gourdel, Sheikh Khaled Bentounes, spiritual leader of the Sufi Alawiyya International Association (AISA International NGO) stated "*We must put an end to the horror and barbarism. This killing spree has nothing to do with the teachings of Islam as they claim. They are exploiting Islam to serve a political ideology that is intent on conquering territories and enslaving minds with terror. Whatever they may say, Islam has always been and will always be a religion of peace and love. We must act, each of us, to replace the culture of fear and hate with a culture of peace.*"

Hamid Demmou, president of AISA International NGOs said that "*Our thoughts and support go primarily to the family and friends of Hervé Gourdel. We extend our deepest condolences and assure them of our support and that of the entire Muslim community.*"

The Paris demonstration: an appeal for solidarity.

Sheikh Khaled Bentounes attended the demonstration that was held in Paris today. He called on all Muslims to unite and create this culture of peace that all mankind so urgently needs now. "It is crucial that the human in us triumph over the monstrosity, over the inhuman that resides in some of us.

We are for life, they are for death.

We are for peace, they are for war.

We are for living better together, they are for the Apocalypse.

We are for brotherhood, they are for hatred.

Men and women, of all faiths and cultures, let us rise to build a just and fraternal society where the human triumphs over the inhuman."

"To all these crimes in Iraq, in Syria, in Libya, to this horrible heinous crime in Algeria, without forgetting the endless Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the true cancer of the Middle East, our response will be mobilizing support for peace and love to prevail over fear and hatred. We must not give in when faced with these murderous and inhuman ideologies! We are for a unifying world. Join us! Humanity needs each one of us to create a true culture of peace."

The International Feminine Congress for a Culture of Peace

Sheikh Khaled Bentounes also confirmed that the International Feminine Congress for a Culture of Peace will be held from October 27 to November 2, 2014 in Oran, Algeria, despite the recent ghastly events.

"This conference is even more important now after this crime. We chose to hold the world premiere in Algeria, a Muslim country that has already suffered so much from religious intransigence. Today, it can be the heart of a more just and equitable culture for all of us. These last events show us that we must make every effort to ensure that the values which drive the culture of peace are able to occupy a real space in our consciousness and in our societies. These values, often associated with the feminine, must be taught in our families and our schools, so that the horror experienced today will never be reproduced."

" In conclusion, when thinking of the family of Hervé Gourdel, Sheikh Khaled Bentounes, spiritual leader of the Sufi movement Alawiyya addressed this prayer to God:

"My God, I turn to You through every heart and every conscience contained in each of Your creatures to deliver us from arrogance, complacency and the destructive madness that threatens each one of us. Give this prayer access to You as an offering to all those who put their hope in You during their distress, but unabated, and who want, according to your will, to live and share in fellowship and peace the sacred gift that You have so generously given us: life."

«Present in several countries of the world, "AISA International NGO is a spiritual organization with «Special Consultative Status «on the Economic and Social Council of the UN. AISA contributes through spiritual and ethical issues to the promotion and consolidation of living together among civilizations and religions. It seeks to facilitate understanding of the principles of equality, non-discrimination, social and cultural progress of humanity, promoting a culture of peace and the fight against poverty. It promotes cultural cooperation, fraternity and mutual understanding of religions and human spirituality. It wants to be an obstacle to fundamentalism, to religious wars and to create a more just and caring world in the service of humanity.

-30-

Source : AISA International NGO
Meriem Benachenhou, meriem@aisa-ong.org