

FRANCE: A 'TOLERATED' MUSLIM STREET PRAYER CAUSES CONTROVERSY

HRWF (03.10.2017) – On 22 September, Majid Oukacha, a former Muslim and author of *Il était une fois l'Islam* (English version: *Face to Faith with Islam*), posted a video on YouTube that shows a group of around 300 Muslims praying on the street of Clichy-la-Garenne in front of the town hall and using a megaphone. This prayer has neither been authorized nor forbidden. It has been tolerated. As a result, the police at the scene regulate traffic in what appears to be a clear disturbance of public order: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=4ZojWRngW0A

During the prayer, the imam of Clichy chants in Arabic Verse 36 of Surah 9 of the Quran, which was used by Daesh jihadists and terrorists before executing Christians and non-Muslims, according to a video of Aldo Sterone, a former Muslim from Algeria living in Great-Britain. This verse reads, "Fight the associates collectively without any exception as they fight you without any exception. You must know that Allah is with the pious."