

The horror of the Pornic criminal affair has abruptly brought to our attention the dramatic situation of justice in France.

In view of the gravity of the situation and in respect of the victim and her relatives, we demand that the public powers accept their responsibility and finally assume the consequences of the choices they themselves have made these last few years.

Unfortunately, that does not seem to be their intention. We have continually sounded the alarm over the difficulties of running the judicial and penitentiary services. We have never stopped denouncing the lamentable state of our services due to the lack of human resources and material.

Today, it is unacceptable that the Justice Department continues to pretend ignorance of the run-down state of our judicial institutions and the ensuing consequences; namely that we are no longer even capable of ensuring our public service missions for lack of manpower and equipment.

Today, it is unacceptable that the only reflex of the highest governmental authorities is to try, at any price, to punish civil servants and magistrates alike in order to conceal their own responsibility.

We will not accept that the judiciary are held liable when they are the very first to suffer the effects of an explosion of legislation together with a reduction of budgetary means while doing their utmost to manage with the limited resources at their disposal.

We have observed with consternation that the sole reaction of the Justice Minister consists of a series of 7 propositions, such that any dispute would be pointless if not grotesque. These propositions are not worthy of consideration to even begin to meet the needs of judicial officers and practitioners.

We expect a serious response from the powers that be. We demand that they fully take into account the degree of exasperation and anger present in judicial circles.

We invite all judicial civil servants, officers and professionals to support our initiatives which will be organised in order to demand governmental action worthy of our fellow citizens, the victims, those on trial and the judicial services.

Translated by Dave Neve (CGT) 03/02/11

