



Le Grand Maître

Sent by mail [REDACTED]

Paris, June 21st 2011

To the Worshipful Grand Master [REDACTED]

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Dear [REDACTED]

Regularity and international recognition are too highly valued to be subject to misunderstandings. That leads me to send you this letter which aims at giving you a summary of the current status of our Grand Lodge and the causes which led to it.

Whereas the French National Grand Lodge is about to celebrate its 100th anniversary it has been constantly attacked for the past 18 months, attacks mainly directed at the Brethren who are in charge of its governance. As I previously explained to you, they are attributable to outside entities, such as the Jurisdictions of the Supreme Council for France of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, the French Grand Chapter and the Grand Rectified Priory, but they also use the Press media and in particular Internet blogs.

These Internet blogs created by a small group of GLNF Brethren, led by a former member of our obedience, Claude Seiler, excluded from our temples by disciplinary decisions in 2010 as a result of unethical Masonic behaviour. These Brethren have organized themselves by forming a group of 35 blogs on the Internet under the headings "FMR" and "Myosotis" and spreading false information and slander.

French Masonic landscape is complex and mainly characterized by the irregularity of its Obediences. Regular Free Masonry, personified by our Grand Lodge, excludes visits to or receiving visits from French other Obediences, which is then accused of ostracism, frequently relayed in the print media, as irregular Freemasonry has a significant influence in economic and social groups, including the Press.

GLNF has for long remained a small minority Obedience. For the last fifteen years it has seen a constant increase in the number of its members, which closes to the main French Obedience, the "Grand Orient of France". It is easy to understand that GLNF growth, conveying the values of regularity and international recognition, embarrasses the interests of irregular Obediences, used until now to spread the idea that there is no other than their masonry, while at the international level, their ideas are poorly represented.



What are the widely opened accusations against the Grand Master and GLNF governance?

- It was alleged that the GLNF and I in particular communicate too much, and even communicate. I was criticized to talk to the highest French political Authorities. This wrong information shall be connected to the influence of irregular Obediences. The links between the "Grand Orient of France" and politics are historical and undeniable. The formally forbidden idea that GLNF could have any political influence in France unleashed campaigns against it from outside of our Obedience.
- As already evoked the internal opponents to our Grand Lodge have focused their attacks on assumptions of financial embezzlement by GLNF dignitaries. Considering the present economic crisis and financial difficulties many of our Brethren are currently facing, these attacks easily caught attention and interest among all. These constant allegations of "financial misconduct" by a group of "corrupt dignitaries" based on not a single proof have instilled the suspicion in the minds of some Brethren.

Facing an unprecedented situation, the Board of GLNF resigned in January 2011 so that the French justice spread off such doubts. An "ad hoc" administrator was then appointed on our request by the higher Civil Court in Paris to take into charge the administrative and financial management, but also shed light on these allegations. We juggled fundamental that Justice gives our Brethren the explanations and self-transparency imposed by the situation.

It is very important to know that **the civil administrator that was appointed on January 24th 2011 by the Higher Civil Court to temporarily govern the French National Grand Lodge is in no way involved in Masonic matters and never in direct contact with our Brethren.** The civil administrator only deals with legal and financial matters or real estate ones.

Regarding matters dealt with either by the written Press or on the blogs, you will find enclosed the conclusions of the legal auditing reports that the Higher Civil Court ordered and which prove indisputably that the suspicions spread by these unscrupulous persons are groundless and represent a sheer form of slander.

You will thus find attached:

- the conclusions of the auditing report with respect to the **GLNF**,
- the conclusions of the auditing report regarding the **GLNF Foundation**,
- the conclusions of the auditing report with regards to **Oeuvre Assistance Fraternelle (OAF)**,
- the conclusions of the auditing report with respect to **Hôpital Assistance International (HAI)**.
- The conclusions of the auditing report with respect to **the GLNF real estates and building societies.**



As you will note by yourself, the legal expert that was commissioned by the Paris Higher Civil Court clearly asserts he **did not find any irregularity** in the French National Grand Lodge management nor in the associated entities.

François KOCH, a reporter from a French weekly News entitled "**L'Express**", enjoys conveying a great deal of misinformation and libellous documents regarding the French National Grand Lodge through his internet blog. The same reporter already wrote various books about Freemasonry. The last one was written in collaboration with Alain BAUER, former Grand Master of The Grand Orient de France. We are quite confused by the relationship maintained by these two persons and we do hope that we will soon get to the bottom regarding the real nature of the links that unite them. We have already brought several actions for libel against this reporter which are currently investigated by the courts. **May we underline that the information is spread at once on the internet whereas it takes quite a long time for judgments to be delivered, what proves to be significantly detrimental to us.**

Also, how can we explain the fact that a letter sent by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to the French National Grand Lodge and dated June 13th was published as of the 14th of June on François KOCH's blog - the L'EXPRESS Reporter - even before or at the same time we received it by fax or mail ? Has this American Grand Lodge we particularly value been manipulated by malicious people, in spite of the fraternal feelings that both Grand Lodges have always been fostering?

Led by their irresponsibility and by the feeling of impunity, the "so called" opposition leaders went as far as publishing on June 3, 2011, in "Myosotis" and "FRM" Internet blogs, a copy of a letter they sent to the "ad hoc" administrator including false minutes of their meeting on May 24, 2011 with her, daring the incredible assertion: "*We took note of your intention to transmit cases of anomalies detected during audits by your services to the Court on Monday 27*".

This totally false and defamatory insertion was immediately denied by the Administrator, in a statement that we published at her request on June 5, 2011. The administrator also expressed herself particularly outraged by the comments on her actions circulating on the "Myosotis" and "FMR" Internet blogs.

In the same defamatory way, we read on the Internet "*The Light*" blog depending on the "L'Express" weekly Magazine, which continuously relays the allegations of "FMR" and "Myosotis" blogs, an article published on June 6, 2011 and entitled "*Anomalies in the accounts of the GLNF: Mrs. Monique Legrand does not deny*".

In its comment n° 3, we can read: "*It seems unlikely that Mrs. Legrand finds no anomaly in the accounts of the GLNF, its real estate companies, International Hospital Assistance or GLNF Foundation. Will she send a file to the Court, or would she give the opponents to the Grand Master the opportunity to do the job?*"

This journalist, in obvious collusion with "FMR" and "Myosotis" Internet blogs made comments in total contradiction with the contents of the Mrs. Legrand statement he claims to comment. The Criminal Court should make clear evidence the blog lies.



Here is the disinformation method currently used, the kind of message firmly and constantly delivered to GLNF Brethren for the past 18 months by those who want to get rid of GLNF regularity and international recognition and take it over.

But, worse, these Internet blogs are only the visible part of the long term prepared campaign to destabilize the GLNF. The original opponents were gradually forced to disclose themselves in order to avoid that other could become beneficiary of the confusion they created.

The heads of Jurisdictions such as the AASR Supreme Council, the Grand Chapter of the Modern Rite and the Rectified Grand Priory count among the major responsible for discord and destruction. In total irregularity, contrary to their obligations of non-interference, and deliberately endangering our international recognition, they deliberately intervened into our management under the names of the Jurisdictions they rule. Their interventions were public and widely disseminated to both the foreign Grand Lodges and Jurisdictions and directly to our own symbolic Lodges.

The "Grande Loge Nationale Française" is a Regular Obedience. The symbolic degrees of Entered **Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master** constitute the heart of it. Our Obedience always maintained good relations with these Jurisdictions; it often hosts its Lodges, Chapters and others in its own temples. The Jurisdictions take their regularity and thus their recognition only from the regularity of our Grand Lodge with which they signed friendship agreements. But they gradually shifted to the idea the "high degrees" should be above the symbolic ones, and therefore the Jurisdictions above the Grand Lodge.

It is not the first time our Obedience is compelled to remind officials of these Jurisdictions the nature of the ties that bind us and the limits of their prerogatives. But the situation has nowadays reached a point of breach with them. Their actions sealed in three official "joint declarations" are evident attempts to take the leadership on our Institution. As a logic response, our Grand Lodge decided to temporarily suspend the decrees that bound us to these Jurisdictions, until the principles of complete non-interference should be reinforced. She was also led to take disciplinary actions against the Heads of these Jurisdictions that have manipulated and abused GLNF Brethren.

In this difficult context, some major Grand Officers of our Obedience, as unscrupulous as the Heads of these Jurisdictions, have attempted to retrieve their personal profits from this painful situation, by disseminating various statements calling for overthrowing the legitimate government of GLNF. These dignitaries may probably be disappointed not to have received awards or functions they ambitioned, among them, some Provincial Grand Masters, perjured to their Masonic oaths. I decided to dismiss them and they are now trying to find a place to seat with our opponents. That shows the strength of their convictions and reliability of their commitments.

In reading this narrative, one could think that GLNF spontaneously undergoes a very important crisis, backed by a large number of Brethren. This is absolutely not the case. The Internet "FMR" and "Myosotis" blogs are maintained by a few numbers of Brethren who post the same papers and the same comments on all the various blogs, giving the impression of a large scale action.



We are conscious of that GLNF current situation damages the international image of Masonry. Who are the real responsible for that damage?

- Those who for 18 months have massively spread slander, outrageous comments, lies and accusations against GLNF, its Grand Master and Grand Officers.
- The heads of the three Jurisdictions of the AASR Supreme Council, the Grand Chapter and the Rectified Grand Priory, who, in deny of all rules and basis of regularity, have interfered in the functioning of GLNF and attempted to take control on it.
- The few former dignitaries disappointed with their promotions or awards, including some former Provincial Grand Masters who are now trying to reach the opponents, with the sole purpose of finding some distinctions or functions.

or

- the 45,000 members of our Grand Lodge that we are trying to protect from influences of these Jurisdictions and some disappointed former dignitaries?
- Those who being attacked defend themselves by press releases and lawsuits to restore the truth.

Can we send back-to-back, put on the same level, the few opponents only motivated by personal ambitions and ready to destroy our Obedience to satisfy them, on the one hand, and all the Brethren who try to defend our Institution on the other hand ?

I do not think so !

The values of Freemasonry shall not yield to unfounded rumors and slander. To become suspicious when we hear accusations is normal, but not any longer when the evidence provided by Justice, which cannot be suspected partiality, demonstrates the absence of any discrepancy or irregularity.

All audits performed at our request under Justice supervision probe one after one the regularity of GLNF all associated structure accounts and the integrity of those who are in charge of their finances.

Beloved Brethren, trust and friendship between all regular and internationally recognized Obedience, are more than ever of utmost importance to us in the situation we are experiencing. This trust cannot be undermined by intentionally propagated rumors and slander.

I do not constitute an obstacle to the return to harmony, and if I am personally attacked today, it is only because I stand in defence against our opponent tactical schemes.

- They do not want to abide by the normal process of accession to the Grand Mastery in the time allotted by our Constitution and By-laws, because they know their proposals for reorganization are rejected by almost all GLNF Brethren.
- They want to install the chaos into our Grand Lodge and lose international recognition, in order to isolate GLNF from its Obediences' sisters and take its control.



À LA GLOIRE DU GRAND ARCHITECTE DE L'UNIVERS

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My role is to defend universal values of our traditional Freemasonry and GLNF Brethren; I always devoted my life to it and will continue to do so.

I would be grateful for your conveying the most fraternal greetings from the GLNF members to all the Brethren of your Grand Lodge.

Fraternally yours, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Dear [REDACTED]

François Stifani
Grand Maître