

Curia refuses to delete ex-Catholic data

NION - 8th January 2012

NION (Not In Our Name), the organization founded to help baptized ex-Catholics to disassociate themselves from the Church, wishes to inform the public that the Curia has refused its request to delete details of 23 persons from its baptismal and other records. This request was made after these individuals legally empowered NION to undertake this task on their behalf.

The Curia's reply refused to recognize NION as the legal representative of these individuals in this matter, and offered to instead annotate the baptismal register only for the person acting on behalf of the others. This annotation would presumably indicate that the person in question left the Catholic Church.

The Curia refused to delete the data using the argument that the data was processed according to law and that this information is used only relative to the administration of the Holy Sacraments, and is not disclosed to anyone except to the persons mentioned in the registration of the sacrament.

NION wishes to express its disappointment with regards to such reply. By not recognizing NION as an attorney, the Curia is creating unnecessary bureaucracy and inconvenience in order to discourage people who wish to take this step.

NION also disputes the fact that the data has been processed according to law, since, amongst a host of other reasons, the individuals represented by it have withdrawn their consent from it being processed.

Annotation of the baptismal register could result in a black list of individuals, leaving them exposed to victimization on religious grounds. NION believes it is the right of these individuals to request the deletion of their personal data, especially when they do not trust the Church to administer the annotated data in their interest.

NION thus wishes to announce that it will be approaching the Data Protection Commissioner with the intention of securing the rights of the individuals it represents and to ensure that the Church is not exempt from the rule of law.