

# Anti-terrorism policy

## Prison and probation services

### The french penitentiary administration

**Mohammed Chirani,  
Mission de lutte contre la radicalisation violente  
Mission to combat violent radicalization**

# French context

**People identified for islamist radicalization:**

- **503** are serving jail term for terrorist-related offenses.
- **187** are monitored in an open environment for the same type of offenses
- **A further 1 000** inmates convicted of regular crimes identified as radicalized.
- **50** releases next year with a peak output in 2022.

# Strategy of the French prison administration in the fight against violent radicalization

## Three major axes :

1. A dynamic security articulated around a system of prison and probation with rehabilitation. Specific care regardless of the detention regime applied to the person concerned (separate wing or ordinary regime).
2. Detection, reporting and monitoring of radicalized prisoners through assessment (in radicalization assessment units, or by the local multidisciplinary team in ordinary regime) of their dangerousness and their ideological impregnation in Jihadist Salafism. After screening and assessment the detainee can be placed in the most appropriate regime.
3. Exit preparation (disengagement/rehabilitation)
  - Social and professional integration : Every prisoner must be able to attend training, schooling, or work.
  - Ideological and counter-narrative component : dismantling the doctrinal propaganda of Jihadist Salafism

# Radicalization assessment unit (QER)

## **Four operational radicalization assessment units and 4 opening soon :**

- Assessment of all detainees for terrorist acts.
- Determination of the existence of a risk of violence based on an extremist religious motive. Assessment of the level of ideological impregnation in Jihadist Salafism.
- Specifically trained multidisciplinary teams (psychologists, educators, prison guards, integration and probation advisers, religious and geopolitical specialists).
- After 4 months of assessment, the detainees are affected. Their geographical wishes are taken into consideration as much as possible.

## **Prison regime choice : combination of concentration (separate) and dispersal (ordinary regime)**

- Isolation wing for the most dangerous profiles and likely to take violent action,
- Rehabilitation unit for radicalized people the most proselytes (placed together in a separate terrorist wing),
- Ordinary regime detention for others.

# Rehabilitation units (QPR)

Two rehabilitation units for radicalized people: the most proselytes being placed together in a separate wing (4 opening soon) :

- These units are intended to accommodate terrorist and radicalized prisoners, as soon as they exercise leadership and proselytism within the context of the ordinary regime (charismatic extremist leaders).

- A multidisciplinary team is assigned to these units, and trained in the management of these detainees. It is composed of psychologists, educators, prison guards, integration and probation advisers, religious and geopolitical specialists.

- Regardless of the regime applied to the radicalized detainees (ordinary regime, isolation wing or rehabilitation unit), measures including an alternative narrative dimension with regard to radicalized detainees are implemented. In addition to social and educational reintegration actions, it features a counter-discourse approach based on geopolitics, human, and social sciences of religions aimed at dismantling the doctrinal propaganda of Jihadist Salafism.

# Preparation for release of radicalized prisoners and their rehabilitation in an open environment

- Probation services and multi-agency approaches in order to mobilise internal and external factors to help the offender.
- Various tools to support resettlement : Structured cooperation with service providers like housing agencies, employment agencies, educational institutions, health care, intelligence services, etc. Building and supporting relationships with family and offering guidance in religious and spiritual matters.
- Private NGO centers in partnership with the probation services in order to support resettlement of released prisoners : Paris (35 places), Marseille (25 places), Lille (25 places) and Lyon (25 places)

# Perspectives

- The penitentiary administration must reconcile the following imperatives: short-term staff security along with the disengagement and rehabilitation of radicalized prisoners through suitable support of their medium and long-term exits.
- The challenge of concentrating 450 radicalized detainees in separate wings by the end of 2018.
- Over the next 3 years, a hundred people detained on terrorism charges should be released with a peak occurring in 2022. The challenge for the prison administration is for the majority of these prisoners to leave disengaged and to identify detainees not disengaged who represent a high level of risk.