



Collective against islamophobia in France

Press release

21st of June 2012

### **The veil, a threat according to the French bank Crédit Mutuel**

COJEP International informed us in the morning of the 20th of June, that a young lady, customer with her family for several years of the Crédit Mutuel located place de la République in Belfort (France), was discriminated. Indeed, as indicated by the COJEP International press release, while the young lady had an appointment at 9am with her bank consultant, an employee refused her the access to the office as far as she kept the veil that was covering her hair.

The young lady did not wear an integral veil or niqab that would have hidden her face, but just a simple veil on her hair. This incident, which happened in the presence of witnesses, was a real humiliation by the Crédit Mutuel customer.

When notified, the COJEP International contacted the bank, which answered that the woman's face was completely hidden and that for security reasons, the employee could not have opened the door. Fortunately for the victim, the security cameras filmed the discriminatory facts. The bank finally asked to see again the woman, probably in order to muffle this new blunder.

Does the Credit Mutuel bank consider that all Muslim women are potential threats? And what to think about employees who do not make a difference between a simple veil and an integral veil? The Crédit Mutuel is taking a risk, by avoiding to condemn such attitudes, to see numerous customers moving their assets to another bank, which respects them more. Moreover, with such behaviour they can face legal proceedings with the support of the CCIF.

The CCIF is strongly denouncing the behaviour of this employee. Such behaviour is unfortunately often affecting veiled women.

The CCIF is joining the COJEP International for requesting that bank managers admit their mistakes and that they take the necessary measures to stop these attitudes.

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