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**Difficulties of testimony and the obstacles on the path for those seeking
legal recourse**

Dominique and Isabelle LORENZATO are going to testify on the terrible experience which they had under the influence of the Guru, Robert DINH alias TANG who was their guide for 22½ years.

Robert Le DINH was the Guru a community which had settled in two French Departments: first in Lot-et-Garonne and then in Ariège over a time span of 20 years.

He was condemned by the Court of Assizes of Ariège on September 18, 2010 for rape, sexual assaults on a 15-year old minor and for abuse of weakness.

This lawsuit took place after 2½ years of instruction, 5 other civil parties were constituted in this case as well as UNADFI.

TANG, who claimed that Jesus had appeared to him, gave his followers mystical teachings practically every evening until late at night.

During teaching sessions which lasted from 11 p.m.to 3 o'clock in the morning or even later, followers were subjected to what was called “positioning”, a kind of public confession above all destined to induce a feeling of guilt for wrongdoings which they had supposedly happened during the day.

Worse still, the application of the “law of return” which says we harvest what you sow, could go as far as threatening great misfortune or death for those who might be tempted to leave the group or not respect TANG's teachings! This was further exacerbated by periods of fasting, intensive work, daily control, previous authorization to go out or to meet friends or family and to have permission to see a doctor.

Le DINH created couples, chose the first names of their children, gave vocational guidance to his followers, if possible he pushed them toward trade or the public service, thus Mrs LORENZATO is a clerk in the Registry of a Court of Appeal, whilst Dominique LORENZATO, is a customs officer.

He directed his adepts daily lives.

This is a true academic case presenting a multitude of the receipts the gurus use to attract their prey: at the beginning, a benevolent and gravitational speech within the framework of an accessible group like one big family.

The charismatic guru, throwing words around with great facility and playing on the emotions of the members of his group.

This business constitutes a rich personal cocktail of what can be done by a cult leader in present day France.

It interesting to note that in spite the judgment in first instance, he still hold fifteen people under influence outside the prison.

TANG had already spent two years in prison in 1986 in AGEN (Lot-et-Garonne) and one of his associations had been pin pointed by the French parliamentary report on cults of 1995 (ADLEIF - Association de Défense des Libertés d'Expression dans l'Institution Française).

What was at stake with this procedure ? In particular, to see if a popular jury of a Court of Assizes could recognize the state of mental subjugation which made it impossible for the victims to refuse the orders of the guru, whether they be financial or of a sexual character, i.e. rape.

My clients remained under undue influence during 22 years and 7 months. It was not, therefore, so easy to make the Court understand the state of dependence in which they were plunged for so long.

Indeed, in the absence of physical violence, if undue influence was not recognized, one could consider that there was consent and TANG would have been discharged.

Moreover, the thesis of the guru consisted in saying that the minors were liars while the other civil parties had been instigated by the couple LORENZATO to foment a plot to take revenge.

Fortunately, the 7 days of debate before the Court of Assizes made it possible for a large number of victims, who, for the majority, had not constituted themselves as civil parties, to make their specific and well argued testimony.

Their presence put pay to any plot theory.

The psychiatrist as a legal expert clarified the perverse character of the guru and especially the psychological visible state of subjection in which the followers were.

Finally, Robert the DINH was condemned to 15 years' imprisonment, the popular jury going beyond the requisitions of the Prosecutor's Office which had asked for 10 to 12 years. TANG, who arrived free at the audience, was the subject of an immediate arrest warrant and left for prison, given that he nevertheless appealed and that the business will have to pass in judgment again soon before the Court of Assizes of Haute Garonne.