

## French justice is destroying families and children with autism

Three children stolen from their mother.

Today, in France, three children have been taken away from their mother to be locked in a children home. The cruelty of the system having no bounds in France, the mother is asked to hand them herself to the child welfare services.

The diagnoses for their autistic syndrome disorder are pending or established, but no one seems to want to make the effort to learn about autism in France. For 30 years, several non-governmental organisations (among which mainly Autisme France) have been fighting against the psycho-analysis dogma of a syndrome induced by the mother, but the psychoanalysts continue to be consulted as legal experts with their archaic beliefs. The mother has committed no other fault than trying to obtain a correct diagnosis and appropriate help for her children. But in France, the Social Services and the children's special law court see this as an evidence of mental illness for the mother.

According to social workers, the mother invented all the symptoms of her children, and therefore they must be separate from her, so that social workers may put them back on the right way. The mother is described as having a condition that does not exist as a psychological disease in the international medical classification: Munchausen syndrome by proxy. Although a doctor of the Autism Resource Center confirmed the children symptoms, she is still accused of inventing these symptoms. Although the World Health Organization has stated since 1980 that autism cannot be induced by parental behaviour, this is not taken into account because psychoanalysis is still a state religion in France.

### Irresponsible child care services

The child care services have violated the national laws: the mother has never been heard, the children neither, no project has been built for the children, nor signed by the parents. The social workers employed by the council have been harassing the mother for two years without setting up any help for the children. They accuse her of imaginary diagnoses, threatened her, and finally have the children locked away in an orphanage.

Incompetent and arrogant social workers, driven by their hateful image of women induced by their psychoanalytic training, instructed a prosecution case against the mother, the content of which she was never informed of. The county Council has failed his responsibility, as the ethics of social workers theoretically obliged them to transmit these documents.

### A perverted justice

An incompetent court expert, wrote a report that we think was against the mother (since she was not allowed to see it). Although innocent, she never had the right to the presumption of innocence and was not even informed of what he is accused of. She had to take a lawyer at her own expense. We can thank her lawyer for her exemplary work and commitment.

The judge has violated his own ethics: no adversarial, unread exculpatory material, disregards of the warnings of the coordinating doctor of the local Autism Resource Centre, who was alerting against the danger of worsening the children's disorders if they were to be separated from their mother. The judge forbade to the mother to have access to parts of prosecution case against her, and made a non-suspensive appeal to force immediate execution of the separation of mother and children. He relayed a non-existent psychiatric diagnosis.

Today, three vulnerable children, were stolen from their mother, who is guilty only of wanting to protect them. Today the pseudo-Child welfare services, despite several reports denouncing 15 years of incompetence, cowardice, errors, blind and uncontrolled omnipotence has knowingly endanger these three children to comply with a totally misguided system

Shame on those who have the power in this country. Only a few courageous activists and a child psychiatrist whom we warmly thank, have the courage to defend the victims.

Danièle Langlois