

**ORGANIZED SADISTIC
RITUAL SEXUAL ABUSE
OF CHILDREN IN THE
NETHERLANDS**

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Nature, detection and reporting point

**Reaction of Stichting Misbruikt! on the report
'Between disbelief, detection and adequate assistance'
of the Temporary Research Committee Organized
Sadistic Abuse of Minors
(Hendriks Committee)**

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Summary

By Decision of 21 April 2021 (Annex A2)¹, the Hendriks Commission the assignment report to the Minister of Justice and Security on the available information on the phenomenon of organised sadistic abuse of minors in the Netherlands by using as many sources as possible and giving advice based on the findings to the investigation. The Commission's report is on Wednesday 21 December 2022 presented to the Minister. The interest groups of victims of organized abuse are united in their opinion that the report falls short on several points. The main points of criticism are shown below.

1. The Committee concludes that organized sadistic sexual abuse of children in The Netherlands exists, is not a myth but is supported by science, explanations of multiple victims and footage. Their stories are clear from the victims' stories horrific experiences with violence and the sexual abuse often appears to have started on young age, to have been undergone in a family context and to have lasted for a longer period of time. The Commission mentions the descriptions by victims of sadistic and cruel acts, such as assault, being tied up and raped, strangulation sex, drugging, being given electroshocks, being kept under water for a long time and having to abuse other children. This conclusion of the Commission on the existence of an abuse of unprecedented seriousness is not associated with the transfer of a sense of urgency.
2. The Committee has not sufficiently investigated how it is possible that such misconduct does not occur comes to light and places the responsibility for it too easily on the victims.
3. The Commission has insufficiently investigated where the gaps are in investigation and prosecution or incorrect approach, which could be to blame, that these indescribable malpractice has not yet begun to be tackled.
4. The Commission's recommendations are in no way consistent with the approach of the by misconduct detected by the Commission.
5. The research into the phenomenon of organized sadistic ritual sexual abuse children is insufficient, as a result of which the associated conclusion is unfounded. There is there has been no proper digital research and jurisprudence and policy in other countries are involved research insufficiently involved. The statements of the victims are not true estimated. The Committee concludes that the police, and in particular the L.E.B.Z. do their job well and it is due to the traumas, the inadequate statements and the lack of willingness to report that the police have not been able to deal with any cases. The fact that the L.E.B.Z. demonstrable frustrated the investigation in such a case, the Commission did not wish to investigate. It is also incomprehensible why many similar statements from multiple victims are dismissed as 'single source'. If the Deetman Committee had handled the

¹ If the text refers to an appendix, then reference is made to an appendix to the report from the Commission.

statements from victims of abuse in the Catholic Church, we would still today think there was nothing wrong with that. The recommendations regarding the detection show a complete lack of understanding of the type of crime faced by this type of abuse is intertwined. During the course of the Commission's investigation, the Foundation has repeatedly, in indicate in conversation or by letter which elements in the research are essential. Also with regard to investigation and the establishment of a Hotline, the Foundation has shared its vision with the Committee, also in consultation with the other interest groups. In this response, Stichting Misbruikt! further explanation and substantiation of the shortcomings identified in the Commission's investigation. Chapter 4 contains the recommendations of the Foundation in detail. This summary contains a brief representation thereof. The failure of investigation and prosecution in this gruesome file has been submitted to the UN Women's Rights Committee for violation of several articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, in particular Article 2 and 5(a) for failure to properly investigate a matter of such gravity. The justification for the request also describes the remarkable working method and conclusion of the L.E.B.Z. cited as grounds for the violation. In a general sense, the question is for the Committee whether Article 12 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is sufficient to protect women who are victims of Gender Based Violence.

**“This is now happening in the Netherlands
and it has been happening for decades.”**

The victims with whom the Committee has spoken are (more than) adults. But it happens still. There are children who are in the inhuman situation caused by the victims described and endorsed by the Commission. The approach to this can only be one be successful if the investigation is based on a different model. This form of crime undermines society. These are not 'bring crimes' but 'get crimes'. The Committee recommends under Investigation 7 that 'when a report eventually leads to a report that an investigation must be carried out into elements of control, coercion, manipulation and deceiving victims.' But then we are too late. You need to look for it proactively this form of subversive organized crime. The interest groups Stichting Misbruikt!, Stichting Spotlight, Stichting Kenniscentrum TGG, and the Lisa Foundation Against Organized Sadistic Child Abuse have the committee provided with recommendations. These recommendations are more in line with the Commission's findings. In short, the interest groups recommend the approach of organized sadistic to take (ritual) sexual abuse to the organization of the perpetrators as a guideline in the investigation and, just as with the approach to human trafficking, to prevent this form of crime seen as a 'pick-up offense' instead of a 'bring-off offence'. Important aspects in the Foundation recommended detection approach are:

- A nationally specialized team
- Digital investigation (Team High Tech Crime)
- Financial tracing

- Safety of victims (as a reporter and as a witness), in accordance with the Victims of Decree illegal acts
- Protection and security of file
- International cooperation

With regard to the set up of the hotline, the Foundation recommends this hotline to be specifically to be set up for this group of victims, including the experiences gained in Germany to take into account. Important aspects for the hotline to be set up are:

- Positioning hotline in national and international context
- Setting up a 'Concerned Council', following the German example, consisting of experts by experience and trauma specialists from the healthcare sector
- Route to security, assistance, specialized police and justice
- Mental health care path, medical and possibility of triage
- Safety for victims, bystanders and employees
- Quality assurance (including screening and intervision of employees)
- Organization of a safe house construction
- Organization of a telephone helpline for people in acute danger
- Relationship with CSG, Kindertelefoon, Victim Support Netherlands and others.
- Budget for at least 5 years
- Possible integration Sect Signal in consultation
- Research

A generic hotline will not work, the victims are rightly too afraid of that. The Foundation is already approached with some regularity because the Foundation is trusted and that is in a world where these victims live with fear, torture, abuse and reprisal, the main condition.

Why is it so harmful that the existence of organized sadistic ritual abuse has not been adequately investigated? Why is it so important that the existence of organized sadistic ritual abuse in the Netherlands, as in other countries (at least Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States) is recognized? Because it can break a circle. A circle in which victims and their statements are now approached from the belief that it does not exist, that the stories of victims cannot be true and in which then these kinds of cases never lead to a conviction and the victims as crazy be put away. This circle does not correspond with the experiences in other countries and would also be true Netherlands should not apply.

The Foundation urges the House of Representatives and the Minister of Justice and Security to do so order further investigation into the existence of organized sadistic sexual ritual abuse of children, taking into account the recommendations of the Foundation.

The Foundation also requests the House of Representatives and the Minister of Justice and Security to operationalize the recommendations of the interest groups for tackling the horrific abuses that have been discovered by setting up a Task Force and assigning monitoring to the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children.

Foreword

You saw children on the cover. Those are the kids we're talking about here. Tough, visible and combative and now mature. They should have just been able to grow up, have children when the time was right, living without trauma, without fear. Now they are adults, but not without fear. And there are still children who live a life that isn't really a life. Yet new victims are being made all the time. Children growing up in a world of abuse of torture, of being sold for sex and of constant fear. Foundation Abused! is regularly approached via the chat by children who are terrified, who tied up, tortured and sexually abused and who want to escape from that world but don't dare or don't know how. Because it's their family who are the perpetrators, their parents who are have authority over them and who bring them back and say they are crazy.

“If the Deetman Commission had treated the statements of victims of abuse in the Catholic Church, we would still be today think there was nothing wrong with that.”

The Hendriks Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) concludes that this form of organised sadistic sexual abuse of children exists. But where is the shock, the outrage, the sense of urgency? I haven't seen it and I don't understand that. In 2014 I have as National Rapporteur Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence against Children the report 'On Good Ground' published an analysis of sexual violence against children. The results in that report came as a shock to me and my Bureau at the time and I passed on that. The huge number victims, but especially the lack of research into cases of abuse was staggering. At the time I did not report on the extreme abuse that the Commission's report about and I regret that. It seems as if in the last 20-30 years the veil is coming over sexual violence against children is subtracted: incest, abuse in the church, abuse in youth care, foster care, abuse in sports and television programs and now organized sadistic abuse. And that veil always consists of disbelief, the supposed one fantasy of the child against someone of standing and power: a parent, a pastor, a director of a youth institution, a foster father, a coach or a member of the jury.

The title of the Commission's report is alienating. Why the word 'unbelief', if it is clear from the assignment that it should not be about 'believing' or 'not believing'. That those situation that may have occurred 30 years ago cannot be a reason for this. It bears witness disrespect to the victims who were brave enough to tell their story to the Commission to tell. A number of victims have submitted a photo for the cover page. Also have victims agreed to include parts of the text as they presented it to the Commission have told. That takes courage and I am grateful to them for that.

I have seen, judged and reported on a lot of violence in my life. What I like about this one victims have heard is 1000 times worse and it's kids who go through that, kids who society must protect.

Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Foundation Misbruikt!

1. Introduction

Stichting Misbruikt! (hereinafter referred to as the Foundation) represents the collective interests of people who being sexually abused in a dependency relationship.² From the moment the investigation organized sadistic sexual abuse of children by the Hendriks Committee had begun, the Foundation closely monitored the process, cooperated and, where relevant, provided the Committee with comments and advice.³ That makes this topic high now on the advocacy agenda. A response to the report as it stands before us, is the logical consequence. The involvement of the Foundation will of course not stop there.

The Commission's report was presented to the Minister of Justice and Security just before the Christmas recess. That is a somewhat unfortunate moment and the way there was not as agreed.⁴ This has the possibility of sound response by the interest groups adversely affected, which according to the assignment and the protocol (Appendices A 2 and 3) cannot have been the intention.⁵ In addition, it probably reduces the political and public attention that a report like this, including the comments, deserves.

The conclusion in the report is that organized sadistic⁶ child sexual abuse The Netherlands exists, is not a myth but is supported by science⁷, statements of multiple victims and footage⁸ (pp. 37, 47 and 48). From various sources, the Committee concludes (p.37), in which victim stories played a central role⁹, their horrific

² <https://misgebruikt.nl/>

³ The Timeline regarding the advice to the Committee can be viewed here:
<https://misgebruikt.nl/over-ons/advocacy/>

⁴ In the letter from the Minister of Justice and Security to the President of the House of Representatives dd. 15 December 2021 includes the following: The interest groups, including the Knowledge Center Transgenerational Organized Violence and the Spotlight working group, will receive prior to the presentation of the report, full inspection of the report. The Commission has full access apparently different since, despite several requests to that effect, no prior inspection of the sub-reports was given.

⁵ It is possible that certain comments about the draft report are refuted in the sub-reports. Orally, the President of the Commission indicated that the conclusions in the final report rely entirely on the findings in the sub-reports. The Foundation Abused! has in particular about the lack of sub-reports 1, 2 and 4 already in letters of 27 and 29 November 2022 expressed her concern.

⁶ The use of the term 'sadistic' or extremely violent is discussed in §2.2.

⁷ The Committee concludes that all scientists it interviewed agree that organized abuse of minors (p. 47).

⁸ The Committee also notes that support (seemingly referring to visual material) is found for the existence of organized abuse of minors with very violent features (p.48).

⁹ It is not clear whether these sources concerned interviews with or letters from victims told by victims to therapists, or in a scientific context from casualties were recorded. It does not appear that any footage of this was available.

experiences of violence and sexual abuse often started at a young age, in to have undergone family connection and to have lasted for a longer period of time.¹⁰

On the one hand, this is bad news, because how is it possible that the police and the investigation department do so little with this have to do? Abuse of this nature undermines society and this is a hidden one undermining. On the other hand good news because it could and should mean that from now that serious work is being done on the detection and tackling of this extreme, undermining crime.

The Commission arrives at its conclusion rather haphazardly. Much attention is given to it aspects that were not addressed in the question in the assignment (Appendix A2). Also become the terms sadistic and ritual are sometimes used interchangeably. The conclusion, which is a resounding yes to the fundamental question of whether this form of abuse exists, is rather hidden in it report. Many negative answers are given to questions that have not been asked, which adversely affects readability. This may also have contributed to it report does not evoke the shock and urgency befitting such a conclusion been.

The Commission concludes that the existence of organized sadistic sexual abuse of children with ritual characteristics cannot be endorsed because there is no visual material of this. In §2.4 of this report, the Foundation Abuse! demonstrated that there is images of ritual abuse and that the conclusion of the Committee on this point is not can be correct. In short, the interest groups of the victims get the strong impression that the report of the Hendriks Committee was written from the perspective of 'believe or not believe', even though it should be about sufficient and correct research. Stichting Misbruikt! calls on the House of Representatives to have further research carried out and to take care of protection and assistance to victims in a safe and better way why detection in the Netherlands of this type of violent sexual abuse until today day receives insufficient attention. In this response, the Foundation gives recommendations on how this should be done could get.

¹⁰ This is supported by a study conducted by the Canadian Center for Child Protection in collaboration with the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children (<https://www.protectchildren.ca/en/resources-research/survivors-survey-results/>). About half of it of the 150 children who participated in that study had Dutch nationality.

2. Assignment and Fulfillment

2.1 The assignment to the Commission (Appendix A2)

The command read:

a. to report to the minister on the available information regarding the phenomenon of organized abuse of minors in the Netherlands by using as many sources as possible (including victims, therapists, scientific sources and experts in this specific field) and to advise on the basis of the findings the detection.

b. to advise the Minister, in response to the motions Van den Berge et al. and Van Nispen et al. about setting up a hotline and how it works;

The Committee used different definitions in its investigation, which led to the factual remit at times, which detracted from the clarity of the report. coming. Investigation has an important place in the assignment; this is insufficiently reflected in the report. The Committee did, however, pay a great deal of attention, unsolicited, to the suspected psychological condition of victims and the assistance provided.

The Commission repeatedly indicates that it does not seek to establish the truth. It is not entirely clear what the Commission means by this. It is obvious that the assignment to the Commission cannot be compared to a criminal investigation in individual cases. However the Commission repeatedly assumes an opinion about the veracity of what explain victims. For example, many victims who independently report similar practices in the same way are dismissed as 'single source'. Is that a scientific judgement? Every victim is one source. Together they form many sources, albeit all witness statements. In criminal law, statements by several witnesses can support each other and lead to evidence. We also see examples outside criminal law of multiple witness statements, without further evidence of any other kind, become all sorts of actions taken.¹¹

2.2 Definitions used by the Commission

Organized

The Commission has difficulty demarcating the area (p.11). According to the Commission, there is an organization if two or more persons cooperate to commit crimes to commit and with this the Committee is in line with what is understood by a criminal organization in the law.¹² Why the Committee then seeks to link up with a definition of

¹⁰ The government has appointed a government commissioner for sexually transgressive behavior and sexual abuse violence was instituted solely on the basis of statements made by the victims. ¹² See also art. 140 Penal Code

the L.E.B.Z. which also assumes several victims is unclear, especially there that phrase (it seems like no real definition) relates to ritual abuse. This connection is all the more astonishing when the Commission adds that victims do not always know if there have been multiple casualties.

Sadistic

The Commission decides not to use the term sadistic but chooses to speak of sexual abuse with clear elements indicating extremely violent behavior or the threaten to do so. The reason for this, according to the Commission, is that the perpetrators in this investigation hardly come into the picture and their motives are not clear. The Commission failed of knowledge about motives of perpetrators can also choose the term 'torture'. The nature A form of violence used would certainly justify that choice and do more justice to it the violence described by the victims that they have experienced. That's what the Commission calls it the descriptions by victims of sadistic and cruel acts, such as assault, being tied up and raped, strangling sex, drugging, being given electroshocks, being submerged for a long time and having to abuse other children (p. 25).¹³ The box below presents descriptions as used by various victims told the Commission.

JUST A CHILD

I was five when my father first implicated me in raping my mother. He made me sit on the back of the bed on my knees and with my hands on his buttocks pushing him. He made me an accomplice of the rape of my mother. Forty years later I still feel terribly guilty about it.

We are six children in space. The youngest about three years old, I am seven. The men put us in a row from smallest to largest. Then I have to step out of line and stand in front of it. I have to choose which child to have sex with which man to give. I have to point them out, I cry and get hit in the head, I have to say it.

I gave the committee the example of taking and punishing of a church boy in another room. Of abuse in the bathroom of the priest, pushing under water again and again, nearly suffocating again and again.

The most painful part was when I was hanged by my hair with another girl. I wanted to scream really loud, but I couldn't.

The use of the term torture solves the problem of lack of knowledge of the perpetrators' motives: "Research into the psychology of the torturer shows that executioners as a rule are not sadists, but rather over-adjusted people with a weak sense of self. A large category of torturers has been tortured or threatened themselves, or has been abused since childhood. Or had to grow

up with violence in the immediate vicinity".¹⁴ Violence committed by civilians among themselves that causes severe pain or suffering that is not addressed, is also recognized by Amnesty considered torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment to which the state can be addressed, for example if there is little or no opposition to rape occurred.¹⁵

However, the Commission does not opt for the use of the term torture, but endorses the definition of the Ritual Abuse Working Group (1994). The Commission indicates that they 'ritually abuse' as a specialization of "sadistic abuse" and then concludes that, if there is sexual abuse in a certain organized context but there are no ritual characteristics, this abuse does not fall under the research assignment (p.12). That is inimitable and the Committee thus changes its investigation assignment (see § 2.1). Attention has been paid to the fact that the Commission looks at both sadistic abuse and sadistic abuse with ritual characteristics incomprehensible to the political process. What is incomprehensible, however, is that it has not been explained will that and why be deviated from the assignment, especially now that it is clear that this assignment it is no coincidence that this is the wording (Appendix A1, p. 59,60).

POLITICAL PROCESS

Appendix A1 describes the political process that led to the establishment of this Committee and the associated investigation assignment. The Committee describes it as striking to find that, where there was initially research into ritual abuse, this has been done by the motion of Van den Berge, Van Nispen and Kuiken has been changed to an investigation into sadistic abuse. This terminology has been chosen on purpose, as can be seen from an explanation by Van den Berge.

What exactly the Commission understands by ritual abuse is not explained further, otherwise than that the rituals may be of a satanic nature, but that they need not be. Not completely clear is the second paragraph of p.12, but it seems that the Commission has used the term ritual satanic abuse used in the context of imagery, where it may be satanic elements such as robes and inverted crosses.

Despite the fact that the Commission on pp. 11 and 12 gives some insight into the definition used among the various concepts, the terms sadistic and ritual abuse are used interchangeably used. This is confusing, especially since the Commission regards the existence of this forms of sexual abuse, takes a different view.

2.3 Ritual abuse

Although this does not form part of the assignment to the Commission, the Foundation wants nevertheless consider what the Commission puts forward in this regard. Other than about it existence of organized sadistic sexual abuse, the Commission on the existence

¹⁴ <https://www.amnesty.nl/encyclopedie/torture-historie-methods-international-law-psychology-campaigns> ;

¹⁵ Ditto

of such abuse with ritual features another view. She indicates that scientists are divided on this. What this division is based on and who those scientists are cannot be ascertained without sub-report 416. The Committee indicates that victims are the only source of this existence and seems to conclude that this is insufficient. The fact that many victims independently of each other declare similarity is dismissed by the Committee with the unfounded suggestion that victims find each other and parrot each other (p.48).

It is remarkable that the Committee does not attach any importance to the way in which the phenomenon of ritual abuse manifests itself in other countries and, in particular, how the governments there relate to this. In Germany, for example, the government pays a great deal of attention to organized sadistic ritual abuse and a government commissioner has been specially appointed for this purpose. The previous government commissioner, Johannes Rörig, has no doubt whatsoever about the existence of ritual abuse.¹⁷ The Commission does not appear to be aware of a case from the United Kingdom in which two men were convicted of sadistic ritual sexual abuse of children from the age of three years, while the conviction for ritual abuse in a neighboring country could also support the statements of the victims in the Netherlands.¹⁸ The same applies to a case in Scotland and a case in the United States.¹⁹ It is remarkable that these facts are in no way mentioned by the Commission.

The victims have stated to the Commission about their experiences with rituals and ritual abuse. The following are excerpts from some of those statements:

RITUALS

I was 5 years old and was in the majorettes of the village. In a hall of the Protestant Church 'de Ark' in Landsingerland we were able to dress up. There was also a stage where village performances were held. With 4 other children we had to crawl on all fours naked on stage in a circle. Someone stood in the middle with a whip. My father and other parents clapped and filmed in the hall. One by one we were taken out of the group by 2 women and we had to go to the toilets where they took blood. The blood was the blood of Christ.

- ¹⁶ This piece has been written on the basis of the confidentially sent final report, without the partial reports. Naturally, the sub-reports will be studied as soon as they are published and this report will be adjusted if necessary.
- ¹⁷ https://www.vpro.nl/speel~WO_HUMAN_16220071~argos-about-ritual-abuse-interview-johan-nes-wilhelm-r%C3%B6rig~.html
- ¹⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2012/nov/28/witches-sex-abuse-allegations-children-court>; <https://news.sky.com/story/witches-coven-child-sex-abuse-pair-jailed-10460711>; <https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/11225477.falmouth-pagan-pervert-pettrauske-refused-appeal/>
- ¹⁹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-62384842>; <https://citrixnews.cz/2022/06/01/investigati-on-confirms-ritual-child-sexual-abuse-sex-trafficking-ring-in-three-utah-counties/>

On p. 29 et seq., the Commission provides an explanation of the social sciences perspective on stories about ritual abuse and indicates that stories about ritual abuse are often associated with Satanism. The Commission seems to agree with this passage say that from a social science perspective, these stories should not be seen as true but as a "coping mechanism", namely the belief that an evil organization exists that has a purpose and a plan for the harm they inflict on someone. In the same passage also discusses killing and eating babies. These stories too belong in the 'coping mechanism' and are therefore not based on truth. What of these, this does not alter the fact that many victims say they have been pregnant several times (p. 25), often already in their teens, having given birth and that their babies have been abused and also killed. Those stories are explicit, and for one victim, a teenage birth is in every one case verified (see §2.7). It is not clear why the Commission does not mention that in this bandage.

The following is what one of the victims told the Commission about one of her babies.

PREGNANTIES AND BABIES

They stripped me naked, lifted me onto the treatment table and tied me up with straps.

The straps are tight, I can't move. My legs are tied in braces. I look at my stomach and cry. The network's doctor senses my belly. He inserts his fingers and then one (which I now know, one speculum), there is a lot of tension on my vagina, then he grabs something what looks like a pin in his hand. He slides it in through his hand. He laughs, very much alive, he says. I feel a sharp sting, it hurts me and I feel warm moisture running down my buttocks. He gets out of me and removes the speculum. He touches my stomach, pulls aside his white plastic apron and unbuttons his trousers. I hear his belt and the zipper of his pants. I see how he comes forward, he searches eye contact, I look away. He enters me and rapes me. After him also go the others. I feel how my baby moves and feel the sperm running. They let me lie down for a while. I'm cold and my body is shaking. I'm afraid. The doctor comes walked towards me, I hear him rumbling. He puts a band tight around my top arm and puts on an IV. He hangs a bag on a metal pole next to the treatment table. It turns on a wheel that is attached to the tube that goes to my arm is running. The wheel is blue. It's running, he says. It feels cold inside me arm. I get tremendous pain in my stomach, cramps and pain in my back and legs. I become nauseous and vomit, the doctor violently turns my head to the side and wipes me clean with a towel. His eyes are hollow and empty. In the hours after that I get sicker and sicker, I get more and more severe cramps and am raped several times. They laugh and sit at me. The doctor visits me regularly with his fingers. The cramps are unbearable and I keep losing my consciousness and regain consciousness. I gave birth to a little boy. He is small, very small and has blue-gray lips. Everything about it, it's beautiful. I'm tied up and wants to touch it, hold it, it makes small movements but no sound. All I can do is follow him with my eyes. I want to protect him. The doctor lifts him up by his legs and puts him around my stomach I hardly dare to breath, afraid he will fall off,

a moment later he stops moving. The room becomes quiet, the doctor, the men and my father are there not anymore.

The Committee also indicates that, despite research, no visual material has been found of ritual abuse (p. 34). How that research was conducted is not clear and will not be become. From the outset, the Foundation has emphasized the importance of thorough digital research. In a letter dated 29 November 2022, the Commission was informed that the Foundation does has seen material of ritual abuse online and is also in contact with an organization abroad that monitors sites with this kind of abuse. On 7 December 2022, the Foundation received an e-mail from the President of the Commission, stating that the Commission was not aware of this and the advice to go to the police. This response is striking, considering the fact that the conclusion of the Committee in this report is partly based on the lack of imagery. See, however, §2.4 where the Foundation argues in support of the existence of visual material.

Appendix A11 (p.87) describes how the Team to Combat Child Pornography and Child sex tourism of the National Unit (TBKK-LE) has investigated the existence of rituals in response to the Argos from missions a lot of abuse in the by Argos things described. The conclusion in that study was that the existence of an organized network with (satanic) rituals was implausible in those cases. Not clear which part was deemed implausible? Only the rituals? Or also the existence of the organized network? Has the existence of organized sadistic sexual abuse of children been confirmed in that case? And if that has not been confirmed either, what relevance does the observation have that ritual abuse has not been confirmed?

2.4 Footage

Sub-investigation 5 describes how visual material played a role in the Committee's investigation. Although the Foundation believes that it has not yet seen that sub-study she said that, given the description, that research is below par. So no research has been done into the existence of ritual abuse (p. 19).²⁰ The Foundation has attempted to investigate this itself to have it done. A broad investigation was indeed practically possible but before that the Foundation lacks resources. A targeted search for a particular website of which the Foundation itself has seen sadistic sexual abuse with ritual characteristics was depicted, turned out not to be feasible as the approached agency (Hoffmann criminal investigation department) indicated that he thereby violated the law.²¹

The Foundation itself has investigated the existence of visual material of ritual abuse done and submitted the question to a very knowledgeable organization. This organization is known by the Dutch police. The Foundation has an affirmative answer of existence

²⁰ The description of sub-report 5 on p. 19 does not match the description of the same partial report on p. 33.

²¹ Not being able to have a (forensic) counter-expertise performed seems to be contrary to art. 6 ECHR. although not at issue here, but it does seem to be a point of attention.

from sadistic ritual child sexual abuse websites. The said organization is prepared to answer questions about this directly. The Foundation has the email messages about this.

2.5 Back in time

The Committee has commissioned an external investigation into accounts of ritual abuse through the ages. That money would have been better spent on proper digital research.

History occupies an important place in this report. In particular, reference is made to the Satanic panic (p.6) in the United States and the establishment of the Working Group on Ritual Abuse in 1993.

It is striking that nowhere in the report is a relationship seen between the way in which people are general view of statements about sexual abuse is now in contrast until the end of the last century, and the way in the 1990s allegations of sexual abuse in general were hardly believed and often led to very nasty consequences for the victims. In the research reports of the Committees Deetman, Samson and De Winter²² this is described in detail. Other than the Commission, the Deetman, Samson and De Winter Commissions relied on important extent to the reports of sexual abuse by victims.

The #MeToo movement has also brought more attention to sexual violence, too against children and that in general statements made by victims are more likely to be believed precisely because there is now much more knowledge about sexual violence.²³ Although the Committee does mention the studies by Deetman, Samson and De Winter, the implications those studies emerge not to be included at all.

2.6 Detection

The Committee commissioned an external investigation into police records (sub-report 12). The results of this are presented in Chapter 5 (pp. 33-35). The presentation of this partial report is fairly meaningless, so without viewing that partial report there is not much about the investigation to say. What is clear is that of organized sadistic abuse and specifically of ritual abuse is rarely reported.

²² These studies are mentioned on p. 9.

²³ Unfortunately, the statements of victims of organized sadistic (ritual) sexual violence still dismissed as implausible, even if superiors declare the same, if not visual material or other tangible evidence is also available.

Willingness to report and trust

Therapists indicate that it is often difficult for victims, because reporting a crime is a major problem long way and this can worsen psychological well-being. The Foundation has from the beginning indicated that there is insufficient knowledge of the police about this type of organization abuse and about the danger that victims run when they go to the police. being victims often afraid to talk to the police precisely because they are afraid that the information they give, without further protection, could endanger their lives. It is the question, given the description in appendix A11 whether the police and/or the Commission are fully aware of this. From the language analysis (partial report 2), according to the Committee, it can be concluded that victims contact the police as enemy, see, as us versus them. The Commission notes this but does not comment further. For example, she does not wonder whether this could be justified. It is a fact that the vice police have no operational protocol in which victims become victims before and around a report protected. And could it be that a report against a network within the police cannot be shielded? Or that there are police officers who have information about victims forward to a network? Returning to what emerged from the reports of Deetman, Samson and De Winter: from priests, youth care workers and foster parents would you also expect them not to abuse children and to protect children.

OWN EXPERIENCE FOUNDATION Misbruikt!

In the context of the aforementioned research by the TBKK-LE (see §2.3) also spoke with detectives from this team. This team also wanted from us preferably names and addresses. What struck us in the two conversations we the tone was 'you still want this research, now there is a team ready and so you should cooperate. Soon that team will be gone again and yes or that there will ever be is the question. We asked if we could start with digital research, but that was not possible. We also asked whether an undertaking to protect could be given before the victim made a statement put, but that was not possible.

Victims are reprised if they talk. Whether that be with the police or with the Commission. Below is a description of how the Foundation (the director) will deal with the consequences of such a experienced reprisal at close quarters. That fear is therefore real and if there is no protection are given to a victim he or she cannot speak. That is why the Foundation has repeatedly urged the Commission, both orally and in writing, to recommend a different approach to this form of organized crime than is currently the case.

REPRESAIL

At 1.43h. at night the telephone of Stichting Misbruikt! Emma calls me, she turns out to have been caught by the network and tortured again. Emma tells that she's in her car, and it's parked in a spot two blocks from my house. I decide to drive to Emma as soon as possible. I get out, open her door and see her sitting; without pants, without jacket, without socks, with bare feet, only in a bloody shirt. Her underpants are torn and there is blood around her waist. When I open the door wider I see the blood gushing all over her chair on the floor. Oh my God!! I say and calm down, calm down. She shakes and shakes all over her body, is clearly in great panic and in a lot of pain. She was taken to a barn hung from the ceiling by her wrists al evening

and in her vagina and anus have been stabbed with sticks and a stun gun. Emma wants and can don't go to the hospital, the network doesn't allow that because if doctors ask what's going on happened, she can say nothing. I'm not going to argue. I am a nurse and estimate that the blood loss is too great. I'm afraid she'll bleed to death. In the meantime I arrange medical care for her outside the regular circuit. I asked Emma why did they do this? Because I have to be loyal to the network and should have kept my mouth shut.

The Foundation informed the members of the Commission of this torture by the network. Her punishment, because she spoke to the Hendriks Committee. For the victims who mustered up the courage to go to the police, a life of great insecurity and often hiding has followed. As with the Mafia, it is virtually impossible for victims to escape these types of networks and lead a normal life.

2.7 National Expertise Group on Special Sexual Matters (LEBZ)

Sub-study 13 concerns the assessment of reports with aspects of ritual abuse (p. 21). Again, the subject of investigation is ritual abuse and not sadistic abuse (as in the assignment worded). The Commission's conclusion after reviewing four random matters is that the lack of evidence is often a problem and that the L.E.B.Z. their considerations and advice clearly explained (p.34).²⁴ In the conversation we had with the chairman of the Commission on 7 June 2022, we strongly asked that the Lisa case²⁵ and its handling by the L.E.B.Z. to watch. The chairman told us that the case was too old²⁶; later on, in his e-mail of 7 December, he amended that in the sense that he considered that the matter was up to would lead to too much polarization, which would distract from the findings and conclusions of the Commission. That's really crazy. We had deliberately mentioned that very case because in that case so obvious remarkable and objectively verifiable mistakes have been made and because it is for it was not possible for us to see other advice that had been settled.²⁷ In that conversation, we also discussed explained why, in our opinion, the Lisa case was relevant. Nor the argument that the case is too old, nor is the argument that it is too polarizing convincing. Lisa is one of the youngest victims who have told their story to the Commission. It goes into the case Lisa for objective reality (that is the focus of the L.E.B.Z.)²⁸, namely a gynecological report with a 100% certain result. What could be the polarizing effect of that are by no means substantiated and are therefore unclear.

²⁴ Such a positive assessment of the work of the L.E.B.Z. after inspection of four cases remarkable and little substantiated, especially since the research into the working methods of the L.E.B.Z. yet has not been completed.

²⁵ https://www.vpro.nl/argos/speel~RBX_VPRO_12219083~the-story-of-lisa-argos~.html

²⁶ The L.E.B.Z. report in this case dates from 22 May 2014.

²⁷ The investigation into the working methods of the L.E.B.Z. also does not include the Lisa case in the assessment because their assignment does not go back further than advice from 2016; <https://www.wodc.nl/en/research-in-implementation/welk-onderzoek-doen-we/3258---evaluation-van-de-landelijk-expertisegroep-bijzondere-zedenzaken-lebz>

²⁸ <https://www.vpro.nl/argos/lees/nieuws/2020/Reaction-LEBZ-op-onderzoek-ritueel-misgebruik.html>

LISA

On September 25, 2013, Lisa is questioned by the police. Lisa tells in that interrogation that she was abused by her father for years. She talks about several perpetrators and victims and all sorts of horrible circumstances. She tells her was pregnant, perhaps by her father, but she does not know that she is gave birth in the woods behind her house and that her baby was raped, killed and to bury. The L.E.B.Z thinks this is an unbelievable story and is looking for an alternative. Using the Scenario Analysis Method, the L.E.B.Z. stating that the mother, angry about father's departure from the matrimonial home, whispered this story to Lisa. What about the credibility of Lisa's story, the L.E.B.Z. the story put in its place is at least as implausible, if not more implausible. The fact of pregnancy and childbirth is objectively verifiable. The L.E.B.Z. has despite a request from the general practitioner, the report of the gynaecological don't want to wait for research. On the basis of this investigation it has been established that Lisa gave birth to a child around the age of fourteen. It is also irrefutable determined that the baby is no more.²⁹

Lisa's case is worth studying precisely because of its verifiability in parts. It is therefore very sorry that, despite insistence, the Commission did not want to include this case in its investigation. This case has since been brought before CEDAW³⁰ due to violation of several articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of discrimination against women³¹ and in particular because of the lack of research in a matter of such seriousness. The justification for the request also mentions the curious method and conclusion of the L.E.B.Z. cited as grounds for multiple violation articles of the Treaty.

The Foundation will also provide a response after the outcome of the evaluation of the L.E.B.Z.³² working method, but in anticipation of this, it points out the way in which the L.E.B.Z. the reason of describes its origins:

The strongly victim-oriented attitude of the police and the judiciary, in combination with the scientific debates, led to fierce discussions in court between experts from the prosecution on the one hand and experts from the defense on the other (Nier op & Van den Eshof, 2010). Well-known or infamous sex cases from the eighties and nineties in which unsubstantiated allegations have a damaging effect on innocent civilians are the Oude Pekela case, the Bolderkar affair, the Eper incest case and the Lancee case. In many of these cases, experts were diametrically opposed to each other at the hearing.³³

29 In the Argos investigation, several victims showed medical records, from which it is possible be deduced that they also had pregnancies.

30 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body.

31 <https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBV0002909/1991-08-22>

32 <https://www.wodc.nl/onderzoek-in-werking/welk-onderzoek-doen-we/3258---evaluatie-van-de-landelijk-expertisegroep-bijzondere-zedenzaken-lebz>

33 <https://www.vpro.nl/argos/lees/nieuws/2020/Reaction-LEBZ-op-onderzoek-ritueel-misgebruik.html>

So it seems that the L.E.B.Z. sees itself as set up to facilitate the discussions in the courtroom to avoid. By making both the investigative acts to be carried out and the decision to prosecute influencing is the role of the L.E.B.Z. disproportionately large. The L.E.B.Z. pointed out to cases from the last century, when about declaring about sexual abuse of every kind thought otherwise. It seems high time to review the position and working method of the L.E.B.Z. at to set. This clamps down all the more now that the leadership of the L.E.B.Z. frequently publicly expresses her views on this problem, which also deters victims from reporting.³⁴

OPINIONS L.E.B.Z.

(Opinion) pieces in Volkskrant: Paul van den Eshof and Nicole Nierop

- Incorrect declarations Facts and evidence are and remain crucial (8 April 2011)

(Opinion) pieces in the Volkskrant Paul van den Eshof:

- Allegations of women difficult to deal with (February 11, 2012)
- Ex soon sees abuse case (November 21, 2008)

Facts and evidence are of course crucial, but it is for the judge to ultimately assess whether the evidence has been provided. Incidentally, it is unlikely that Mr. Eshof at this time the would still use the text 'alleges difficult to deal with women', but it does sign the mindset that applies to the L.E.B.Z. reigns(e). It is extremely worrying that an uncontrollable agency, with a very pronounced and propagated vision, takes such an important position and in fact on the judge's chair sits down. The question is whether this is in line with Article 6 ECHR (European Convention on Human Rights).

2.8 Prosecution

The Committee notes (p.34) that this is apparent from an overview of court cases in recent decades that there are no convictions for specific ritual (satanic) abuse. Again, the Commission indicates a restriction that is not in accordance with the assignment (see §2.1). Nevertheless it is not It is surprising that if there are no criminal investigations, then there is nothing in the courts either is found. It is also difficult for victims (this applies to all forms of sexual abuse) to gain access to justice. It is the prosecutor who is in charge of the directs the criminal investigation (Article 148 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) and therefore determines which investigative acts are to be carried out. Subsequently, it is the public prosecutor who decides whether there is prosecution is instituted and if the public prosecutor decides not to prosecute, a victims can file a complaint with the court under Article 12 of the Code of Criminal Procedure with a request to force the public prosecutor to prosecute. of that decision

³⁴ Ter Beek, M and Nierop, N, Allegations of Ritual Abuse, Expertise and Law, 2021-5; Hup peretz, M., Nierop, N.M., Beek, M.K. ter, Eshof, P. van den, & Beek, M.L.J. of (2018). The impact of trauma on the accuracy of statements. Nederlands Juristenblad (18), pp. 1266-1273; Nierop, N and Van den Eshof, P, Beyond Rirual Abuse – The Experiences of a Retractor, EMDR magazine 19, pp. 26/28

no appeal or cassation is open to the victim.³⁵ Should the Court of Appeal have rights in that decision as included in the ECHR or have violated CEDAW, then there is no national law against this access to the courts is open.³⁶ In the case of Lisa, CEDAW will also consider whether this very limited possibility for the victim to take the case to court, the rights of women with regard to gender-based violence are sufficiently guaranteed.

2.9 Science

The Commission bases its conclusions on the existence of organized sadistic sexual activity abuse of children partly on science. With regard to the same abuse with ritual characteristics, the Committee notes that scientists are critical of stories about ritual abuse. Not much can be said about this without sub-report 4. What is striking that the Commission refers to the scientists interviewed (p. 81), who are all there agree that organized abuse of minors occurs. It's not clear what value this phrase has, since also the abuse of one's own child by both parents can fall under this and that observation seems rather gratuitous. These scientists have expertise in recovered memories (Otgaar), sects (Oldenhuis), history of hermetic philosophy and related movements and esotericism (Hanegraaff) and psychology and treatment of power dynamics in sects, among others (Terwiel). Williams was one of them the researchers into the extent of organized sadistic abuse.³⁷ The researchers reflect on the possibilities of research into this phenomenon.

REFLECTION OF THE RESEARCHERS

Estimating the extent of organized sadistic abuse is complicated by several factors. From the expert session and the in-depth conversations shows that most experts do not consider any estimation method to be promising to estimate the size. Experts call these characteristics inherent in this abuse (such as the extreme concealment and concealment) a make size estimation impossible. Experts do not know of any (new) promising ones estimation methods that may nevertheless provide insight into the extent of organized sadistic abuse. According to experts, it is important to bet on research into case histories and underlying mechanisms.

The recommendation to focus on casuistry requires that at least one should listen to victims and that investigations should be carried out into what they say. They deliver after all, the casuistry.

³⁵ <https://uitspraken.rechtspraak.nl/inziendocument?id=ECLI:NL:HR:2013:BZ5410>.

³⁶ HR 03-12-1971, NJ 1972, 137.

³⁷ Wilms, P.J.M. and Huberts, S, (Im)possibilities research into the extent of child abuse A methodological exploration, W.O.D.C., February 2022

2.10 Authority and prestige

The Committee describes distrust as an important aspect in the interviews with the victims to the police, judicial authorities and sometimes also social services (p. 25). Victims often believe that individuals are out these authorities are involved in the network. It is also regularly claimed by victims that known authority figures are part of the network (p. 26). The use of the word 'claimed' is suggestive and already implies that that 'claim' would be implausible. Then lays the Commission explains why this 'claim' cannot be true: 'This could be deliberately suggested by perpetrators, for example through role-playing games. Systematically suggesting certain things can, according to speech therapists, be an effective control mechanism, especially when it comes to young children. There does not seem to be a moment's thought by the Commission that what the victims are also just might be true and merit further investigation. That is at least remarkable and seems to suggest that it would not be possible for people from the police, judiciary or assistance would be part of an offender network.³⁸ This statement reminds us how servants of the church could not be perpetrators of sexual abuse. That's not full following Harvey Weinstein convictions, hold the cases against Jeffrey Epstein and Prince Andrew of the United Kingdom and events on The Voice. Also people of authority and prestige may engage in serious criminal sexual behavior. Juvenile judges were also Van der Ven in Arnhem and Rueb in The Hague involved in frequent sexual abuse of their pupils, children for whose protection they were responsible. And they weren't the only justice officials. It is therefore careless of the Commission to consider the option that the victims speak the truth, not to take it into consideration.

2.11 Conclusion

The Committee concludes that organized sadistic sexual abuse of children exists and bases that conclusion on science, the statements of victims and images. She names the descriptions by victims of sadistic and cruel acts, such as beatings, being tied up and raped, strangling sex, drugging, being administered it getting electroshocks, being submerged for a long time and having to abuse other children (p. 25). From various sources, the Committee concludes (p.37) in which victim stories were central³⁹, their horrific experiences with violence are revealed and sexual abuse often started at a young age, started in the family and lasted for a longer period of time. The Commission describes the offender networks especially as a family and ignores what victims have said about this (see §3.1).

The existence of ritual characteristics is not considered plausible because the Commission apparently is of the opinion that statements of several witnesses cannot support each other. The The Committee indicates that there is no visual material of ritual abuse, wrongly so. The mail from the aforementioned organization shows the opposite. It is incomprehensible that the

³⁸ An example of the involvement of people with authority and power in a pedophile network, that operated both offline and online can be found in Norway, <https://nos.nl/artikel/2144243-noors-pe-donetwerk-opgerold-ook-twee-politici-verdacht>.

³⁹ It is not clear whether these sources concerned interviews with or letters from victims had been told to therapists by victims, or in a scientific context from victims were recorded. There is no evidence that this footage is available used to be.

Dutch Police, in view of their good reputation in the field of tackling child pornography, were unable to find it. The Commission sees no shortcomings in the actions of the police, or the L.E.B.Z.. The Committee has insufficiently looked at examples of ritual abuse in other countries. The conclusion that ritual abuse does not exist is therefore not founded.

3. Victims

The Committee spoke to 21 victims, of whom 4 victims wrote stories received and 24 letters from victims or their relatives were handed over to the Commission via Kaleidoscope (p. 24). The information obtained from this has been incorporated into sub-reports 1 and 2. With regard to sub-report 2, the Foundation has informed its concerns expressed. The letters from victims, as also indicated by the minister, have been sent to the commission to gain insight into the phenomenon. However, the letters have been used to describe recurring themes and language patterns (p. 18). It is not clear why this analysis was made, since the end as defined (p. 18) is more of a means than a means seems like a goal.

3.1 Nature and phenomenon

The victims have told the Commission in great detail about the nature and phenomenon of organized sadistic ritual sexual abuse in their childhood years. The Commission, in the final report, takes a very light version of everything they have heard and read have gotten displayed. The Commission indicates that it protects the identity of the victims was the reason for this. The victims just like this thought it is now worded in the final report, it does not do justice to the horrific practices they have had to experience. In addition to stories about sexual abuse, torture and the organization of the networks, also tells a lot about the ritual abuse and the ritual characteristics, but almost nothing can be found about that. With their consent in this response included several parts of what they told the Commission. Since their stories almost all contain the same elements and there is a mix of their stories they are not recognizable on this basis. Below are elements from the stories are shared with the Commission.

RITUAL ABUSE TOLD BY VARIOUS VICTIMS

That evening my father took me in the car. I didn't know where I was went. When I saw the church I knew what kind of night it was going to be. We performed a ritual. It made me sick. In the church we had to undress and wash. Be clean for the ceremony. Me and the other kids (7 total) were given white robes. We were then led into the church direction altar. On the altar was a black cloth with a red star on it. There were candles around the altar. On the altar lay a girl, she was naked and I estimate about 2 or 3 years old. She had blonde hair. She barely moved, but she was there knowledge, her eyes were half open. There was a special atmosphere, different from usual. There was a foreign-speaking man in charge of the ceremony. He seemed to be very important. First name or something. The other men listened very carefully good to him. The men wore black robes. We kids had to stand in a circle around the altar. The man in charge spoke one language I did not know. He read something and the other men repeated after him. It was dark outside. She drew symbols on her naked body. The men said more things in the foreign language, a kind of chant. The man in charge

had about the ceremony was holding a knife. It looked more like a spear than like a knife. The shape of the blade resembled a spear. The man who held it inserted this into her, into her vagina. The child didn't move that much but screamed very loudly. Then he took out the knife and stuck it in her chest oblique. It took a while and then she stopped moving. They have with her blood symbols written and they put her blood in a cup, this passed around the circle and we all had to take a sip. They said that it was very special blood and that this would make Satan very happy. It was especially that we could be here, said the man. You weren't allowed to throw up. Also we had to eat a piece of her that was very difficult. I could hardly swallow and almost choked on it. They had taken the piece from her stomach cut. It made me very sick.

A victim tells the Commission that "This group is positive about it satan, and that she therefore had a plasticized devil's pass as access to their meetings. There were meetings in churches, where those present had to wear red clothes and Satan's rules of the devil were read. One of them was that you could rape children. There were also parties where there were skulls everywhere."

The Committee states that the perpetrators within the organized are often family (p. 25) and the social network around it. That makes it small and insufficiently describes the extent of organization and ignores the fact that these families are engaged in criminal, tightly organized practices. It appears from the descriptions of the victims that the often very ingenious networks that make a lot of money from sadistic sex with children. It is also very important to the networks that victims do not talk and do not leave the network completely. Victims told the Commission about the following the degree of organisation.

been through that with my own family doctor threatened after he provided me with medical care. They are self-sufficient and well organized.

ORGANIZED The continuity of the network must be guaranteed at all times. Perpetrators perpetrators must remain and victims must remain victims or perpetrators themselves become. In any case, they must remain within the network. They do everything they can to achieve this. In principle, I have not been actively abused for years, yet they regularly let me know that I'm off the network and can't get out. For example: They call me and threaten me, they call me or say nothing but let out children's cries and screeches, they kill my pet and lay that in the garden, follow me for a while without doing anything and just watching. For perpetrators are the same. They cannot leave the network. If they want that then have it I have witnessed them being blackmailed, threatened, abused or raped. Everything is solved within the network, that's how they keep it a secret. If For example, I had injuries as a child, was pregnant or otherwise medical needed care, I was taken to a doctor within the network. You may not to an out-of-network doctor. I've

In the network there were also people who already invest money for their work, who worked at large offices. They invested the money they earned in shares and real estate in several countries. There was a lawyer willing to do that too, but that was not allowed.

The Commission's task was to describe the phenomenon. The Foundation and the other interest groups are of the opinion that this has only partly been achieved. It must have become clear to the Committee from the stories of the victims that this is not a single criminal offense but a way of life imposed on victims by the network.⁴⁰ Many victims also appear to be under the influence as adults. of the offender network. Victims of organized sadistic abuse are often people who have lived from their earliest childhood in unsafe, frightening and violent conditions, without any real safety. Perhaps the Commission's lack of clear description of the phenomenon is the cause of the lack of outrage and sense of urgency.

3.2 Reports to Stichting Misbruikt!

Since January 2022, 18 victims have reported to the Abuse Foundation! As far as possible, help has been called in for these victims. Below are some examples of what comes in on the chat.⁴¹

REPORTS

July 2022

My name is XX . I was drugged, from the age of 8 I have been abused and mistreated all my life by various family members. I've cut off contact with my family, forever. Can you put me in touch with fellow sufferers? 'Cause feel so alone.

September 2022

I am very afraid to talk. My father and mother are both in a network. I've been thinking about getting help for some time, and about where I can go but I don't know where to go. Will you help me?

October 2022 Will you help me, please don't call the police, don't call anyone from the police, I'm afraid. I want to get off the network but I can't go anywhere.

October 2022 Hi, In my youth I became a victim of abuse by a network including my grandfather. I can't stop thinking about that and I'm so alone with it, can you help me? I need help because I'm going crazy.

⁴⁰ See also p 47 on High Control Groups.

⁴¹ The reports contain characteristics of organized, sadistic and ritual sexual abuse, but given the privacy rules and the safety of these victims, the reports are limited

3.3 DID and recovered memories

Much attention is paid to the fact that the allegations in the 90s of the previous century often rested on recovered memories. However, the Committee states in the Final Considerations (p. 47) that the interviews with the victims now show that their statements rely only to a limited extent on memories recovered or memories before the third year of life. It is therefore not clear why so much attention is paid to this aspect (sub-report 6, p. 19). This is all the more pressing now that nothing about this can be found in the assignment⁴².

⁴² See Institutional Decree, Appendix A2.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Assistance

The recommendation on assistance has been expanded. However, the Foundation lacks a recommendation on how to deal with (practical) assistance to minors. Almost always are one or both parents involved. The first aid should then be aimed at the child in the sphere of influence of get the parent(s). This will require a child protection measure. This part must be carefully investigated and the role of the Meldpunt must be involved in this. The The Foundation has already received a number of reports where this problem was acute.

4.2 Investigation and Prosecution

The recommendations for reporting and investigation and prosecution are remarkable. Responsibility for an effective investigation seems to be largely placed with the victim. Reference is also made to the psychological condition of the victim, which would prevent a consistent statement from being made. There is none in this whole piece visible that the Commission is aware that tackling organized crime with the aim of sadistic sexual abuse of minors, with or without ritual characteristics is fundamentally different from the approach to, for example, an individual assault⁴³. Where one-on-one sexual crimes are so-called 'bringing offences', the ones in this report named crimes as well as human trafficking 'get crimes'. That means proactively detecting and don't wait and see where a 'declaration ends up' (p.53). With the conclusion of the Commission, that there is organized sadistic sexual abuse of children in the Netherlands, it would reason that it was at least recommended to set up a Taskforce or to draw up a National Action Plan to combat this terrible injustice against these children. The Foundation Abused! has, in consultation with Stichting Kenniscentrum TTG, Stichting Spotlight and Lisa Foundation against Organized Sadistic Child Abuse on September 18 2022 made some recommendations to the Commission for investigation and prosecution of this kind Affairs. These recommendations are repeated below. This letter is also attached as an attachment added.

⁴³ The Foundation does not want to play down this form of sexual violence in any way. The Foundation is coming after all, it represents the interests of all victims of sexual abuse. The big difference is location in the organization of the offender network, which requires a different approach for effective investigation.

Letter dated September 18, 2022

Investigation, prosecution and assistance regarding organized sadistic sexual abuse should be seen in the light of the approach of a criminal organization. A criminal organization which, as victims have stated and explained to the Commission, is engaged in murder and manslaughter, human trafficking, money laundering, rape, making and selling child pornography, torturing and ill-treating, and threatening with crimes against life. The investigation must therefore proceed in accordance with the Fifth title of Book 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. That means special investigative powers; the emphasis should be on investigating the criminal connection. A criminal After all, the connection does more than just commit criminal offenses and consists of more than only suspects. The aim is therefore to investigate a complex of persons and facts, in order to identify a group belonging to organized crime to take. Having regard to the Commission's conclusion that organized sadistic sexual abuse exists in the Netherlands, there is every reason to view the approach to it in that context. All this means that the Sexual Instruction does not apply to this form of crime. From the knowledge that exists about international networks aimed at selling of child pornography and human trafficking, it is clear that national borders are not respected become. This image has also been confirmed by several victims. With such an approach hear specific attention for:

- A nationally specialized team
- Digital investigation (Team High Tech Crime)
- Financial tracing
- Safety of victims (as a reporter and as a witness), in accordance with the Victims of Decree illegal acts
- Protection and security of file
- International cooperation

As is no exception with criminal organizations, several victims indicate that their perpetrators either have ties to persons who hold influential positions or hold such positions themselves. Be that as it may, the experience of victims is that they are at least frightened of it. It is therefore very important that the files are secured and the information from those files anonymized with members outside the team and executives are discussed. This is to prevent influence or interference appearance. The above also entails that the public prosecutor and the court charged with the prosecution and/or adjudication of these cases are also specific expertise requirements. It should be clear that for the L.E.B.Z. or a similar organization is no longer in this place. In view of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it may be expected from the Netherlands that Articles 19 and 34 of that convention, the protection of the sexual integrity of the child and the protection against sexual abuse, is taken seriously.

With regard to safety for victims, special rules must apply, which partly are also derived from Book 1, Title V Sv. The EU Victims Directive forms the basis for these rights and they are also laid down in the Victims' Rights Instruction of the Public Prosecution Service. Victims who muster up the courage to go to the police must do so can do safely. That means the possibility of anonymity or protection as a witness (of course within the legal framework). Now victims notice that the police first want to investigate before

guaranteeing safety and thus they take the risk, that victims who evade the network do not take themselves seriously enough. Research shows that victims of human trafficking (particularly of so-called loverboys) return to their perpetrators more than once, out of fear or perceived loyalty. This phenomenon is also seen in victims of organized sadistic sexual abuse. Safe houses for this one victims must have expert staff equipped to care for this specific group. In case a victim indicates that a police officer or an officer of justice or a judge, involved in her/his case is part of or has ties with the network of which he or she is a victim, then there must be a safe way to do so to follow up. Our advice is to see how this is arranged in Germany.

The Reporting Center must be able to have direct contact with the specialized national investigation team, partly in order to realize precautionary measures such as a hiding place. and identity protection. If desired, the Reporting Center supports the victim in the filing a report or making a (written) statement. With consent of the victim, Meldpunt can also arrange for a physical examination (vaginal, anal and elsewhere on the body - indications of applied (sexual) violence). With the victim's consent, the Reporting Center can also collect medical history (previous collect contacts with general practitioner, specialist). The victim can participate in this by a trusted person. If desired, a physical examination can be performed under anesthesia or local anesthesia. The victim can request a psychological research to determine what the psychological condition is (CPTSD, DID), and what consequences the abuse has for psychosocial functioning, of course by an appropriate expert, who also has the confidence of the victim. The results of such an investigation can be used to obtain compensation and the at the hearing, or when submitting a request to the Violent Crimes Compensation Fund. It is important that victims are informed throughout the process of what is happening. This is an important task for the Hotline to monitor this.

4.3 Reporting Center

The Commission's recommendation on establishing a single contact point for all forms of sexual abuse is remarkable and does not seem to be based on the advice of those who work with this target group, nor on the situation in Germany, nor on the interviews with the victims. It's not because victims of this type of crime get confused of a multitude of hotlines, which except for the Abuse Foundation! and the Spotlight Foundation, none of the other points have ever received a report from this group. It's because they are afraid, rightly do not feel safe and are afraid of not being understood. The degree of knowledge and experience available at these two foundations in collaboration with the Knowledge Centre Trans Generational Violence, which support and complement each other, is impossible to be distributed all over the country. For that reason, the Foundation Abused! the recommendation that on this point on 16 October 2022 in consultation with Stichting Kenniscentrum TTG, Stichting Spotlight and the Lisa Foundation against Organized Sadistic Child Abuse to the Commission has sent, below almost in full. The letter will also be added as an attachment.

Letter dated October 16, 2022

At the request of the Hendriks Committee, an impetus for its establishment is given below of a Hotline for Organized Sexual Abuse. It is an addition to the joint advice on the detection of Organized Sexual Abuse. Such as indicated in that advice and as the Foundation knows from its own experience, this is the issue to serious crime which far exceeds the scope of what falls under 'morals'. This concerns - in addition to crime which is included in the moral title of the code of criminal law - human trafficking, aggravated assault, threats, sometimes even murder and manslaughter. Often the field of activity of such a criminal organization is not limited to The Netherlands. It is characteristic of this form of organized sexual abuse that victims are often imprisoned from an early age, for years on end, and as it were being brainwashed. The term captured should be taken quite literally here: it is virtually impossible for these victims to escape, and often at their expense own freedom. Basic freedom is not an option for them without the help of third parties. This one elements together (serious crime and complex psychological care) require extremely specialized care. The Reporting Center must form the pivot between care, security and investigation and must be a prayer in an independent (structurally financed) organisation: a safe national Hotline for these victims. The specialist knowledge and the far-reaching care for safety required for this make it possible to accommodate this help across several existing organizations is inappropriate and even highly undesirable. These victims are set up to distrust existing organizations. And every one trust nevertheless placed has led to a disappointment for them. The Foundation now has several contacts abroad, where the existence of these kinds of networks also exists is identified, studied and traced. In view of this and the cross-border activities of the criminal organization must also be allowed within the Hotline for establishing and intensifying these contacts and for research.

Meldpunt is a professional organization with knowledge, both nationally and internationally, of this form of crime. Testimonials can be made from that knowledge of victims and all incoming information are valued. Victims are approached from 'believing'. The main thing must be that increasing knowledge of this kind criminal networks is necessary to make the Netherlands safe for all children. Not only believing is important but also the availability of help. The Reporting Center cannot have all the expertise in-house but must have direct access to and a profession can do on a specialized team, which includes psychologists/(child) psychiatrists, lawyers, specialized police and forensic doctors. The Meldpunt must do both in the Netherlands and abroad can safely provide adequate help for victims. Also social workers and other bystanders who suspect organized sadistic abuse can turn to the Hotline.

The process of establishing a Hotline should be divided into two phases, te start with making an Action Plan by a Core Team and then the organization and implementation of the Hotline. Naming a Core Team that in Developing the Action Plan in the first six months is part of the first phase. This squad consists of a quartermaster supported by an Advisory Board consisting of a chairman and two members who together have knowledge of human trafficking and international aspects to have. In the implementation phase, a project assistant and/or project manager can provide support are. The Action Plan must contain the following points:

- Blueprint organization structure and business operations
- Positioning Meldpunt in national and international context
- Setting up a 'Concerned Council', following the German example, consisting of experts by experience and trauma specialists from the healthcare sector
- Route to security, assistance, specialized police and justice
- Mental health care path, medical and possibility of triage
- Safety for victims, bystanders and employees
- Quality assurance (including screening and intervision of employees)
- Organization of a safe house construction
- Organization of a telephone helpline for people in acute danger
- Relationship with CSG, Kindertelefoon, Victim Support Netherlands and others.
- Budget for at least 5 years
- Possible integration Sekt Signal in consultation
- Research

The relationship with the police deserves specific attention. Where the Reporting Center as a pivot for the serves victims, must also The police have a nationally specialized team ready. This can be about recording a report, but also about securing a victim. But above all, that team must have the knowledge and skills to investigate and to conduct an investigation into a criminal organization without compromising the safety of one victim is endangered. Victims must be able to trust that their information will not make them feel unsafe. This team and Meldpunt are working together tackling this form of organized crime and providing victims with safety and care to ensure.

The organization of a specialized Hotline with extra security measures, that's a concern has to bear for the traumatized survivors of the organized sadistic networks operating in the Netherlands, requires a highly specialized approach. For this Hotline a specific framework should be developed. It is impossible to achieve success without the specialist knowledge, experience and confidence of this target group lead. Stichting Misbruikt! has that knowledge and demonstrably enjoys the trust of a large and growing number of victims. The involvement of Stichting Misbruikt! is therefore obvious to implement in the above plan. The Foundation is also willing to do so. The protection and safety of victims of this form of serious organized crime always comes first. So is their autonomy. The Foundation considers it important, and shares the opinion of the Commission, to look into this is based on the German example of their approach to organized sadistic (ritual) abuse. But the example of Canada is also worth studying in more detail. The Canadian Center for Child Protection⁴⁴ already has a lot of experience in rescuing children from network situations and organized sadistic sexual violence.

⁴⁴ <https://www.protectchildren.ca/en/>

5. Conclusion

Of great importance to victims is the recognition of the existence of organized sadistic child sexual abuse. However, it remains unclear why the Commission questions the existence of the same abuse with ritual features. The statements of victims about this are considered unverifiable because there would be no footage. And yet, despite several requests to do so, the Commission is not aware of its existence really investigated.⁴⁵ The e-mail in the possession of the Foundation conclusively shows that footage of ritual abuse exists (§2.4). The Commission's conclusion on this point is therefore incorrect. But even if the footage did not exist, it remains unclear why explanations of many victims would not support each other about this? As in the investigations into the abuse in the Catholic Church would make victims' statements unverifiable taken off, we'd still think there was nothing going on in the Catholic church. The examples mentioned in §2.3 from countries around us, where the government has established it of ritual abuse is recognized were not noticed by the Commission during their investigation, or pushed aside for inexplicable reasons.

Not only are the statements of the victims without visual material dismissed as unverifiable and therefore without value, they are also not treated with respect. A comment like:

“The arrows of victims were mainly aimed at the police, those reports and declarations were not would take seriously, skeptical scientists and the L.E.B.Z. who would take a biased position towards victims of ritualistic abuse” (p. 2)

dismiss victims as troublemakers. The frequent references to conspiracy theorists does that also. Also the structure of the report, in which more and more attention is paid to what plays no role in the conclusion than focusing on the extraordinarily vehement conclusion leads to an unclear report that shows little empathy for a group of victims whose sufferings are referred to as true and serious. How different was the tone in the Committee cited reports by Deetman, Samson and De Winter.

The view of the L.E.B.Z. is followed by the Commission in several places and the method of the L.E.B.Z. is rated as good after viewing (without expertise) of four cases, while it can be established objectively that the L.E.B.Z. demonstrable in each deliberately frustrated further investigation in one case. Besides, the many give publications of the L.E.B.Z. actually a picture of how within the L.E.B.Z. is thought about ritual abuse and it is objectively not surprising that this is characterized by victims as being taken in the forefront (§2.6). The firm and widely propagated conviction of the L.E.B.Z. that organized sadistic ritual sexual abuse of children does not exist in the light of the existence of visual material should be reconsidered; it also looks like confidence misplaced in their expertise in precisely this field.

⁴⁵ Crawling the internet for robes and crosses, for example.

Despite the vehement conclusion:

that organized sadistic sexual abuse of children exists and is accompanied by sadistic and cruel acts, such as beatings, being tied up and raped, strangling sex, drugging, receiving electroshocks, being submerged for a long time and having to abuse other children (p. 25), which also shows that their horrific experiences of violence and sexual abuse often started at a young age, have been undergone in a family context and have lasted for a longer period (See § 2.8)

the report does not come to life. A clear picture of the phenomenon does not emerge. With the description in Chapter 3 and in a number of box texts an attempt has been made to close this gap and provide more insight into the phenomenon, also with the aim of creating a sense of urgency and thereby substantiating the recommendations of Stichting Misbruikt!.

The Commission's recommendations are in no way related to combating its established existence of organized sadistic sexual abuse of children, nor on the field of possible detection, nor on setting up a hotline. The foundation Abused! has, in consultation with the other organizations involved, made extensive recommendations to the Committee, which unfortunately have not been adopted or have been adopted incorrectly (§§4.2 and 4.3). In short, the Foundation recommends that when tackling organized sadistic (ritual) sexual abuse, the organization of the perpetrators should be used as a guiding principle in the investigation and, just as with the approach to human trafficking, to see this form of crime as a catch-up offense instead of a 'bringing offence'. This approach leaves no room for the L.E.B.Z.. That also means proactive digital research. With regard to the Meldpunt to be set up, the Foundation recommends to set up this Reporting Center specifically for this group of victims and to also take into account the experiences gained in Germany. With regard to a Knowledge Centre: there is already a knowledge center (KTGG) that has been conducting research and trust for two decades enjoy relief workers and survivors, which works closely with the Abused Foundation, Foundation Spotlight and the Lisa Foundation Against Organized Child Abuse. The existing Knowledge Center KTGG must be included in the new one and continue to work closely with its new reporting point.

The Foundation urges the House of Representatives and the Minister of Justice and Security to do so order further investigation into the existence of organized sadistic sexual ritual abuse of children, taking into account the recommendations of the Foundation.

The Foundation also requests the House of Representatives and the Minister of Justice and Security to accept the recommendations of the interest groups for tackling the horrific crimes that have been detected. operationalize abuse by setting up a Task Force and entrusting monitoring to the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children.