

Dear friends,

On May 1, 2024, a martial arts star passed away, leaving behind a great void.



It was with great emotion and sadness that I learned of the death of Sensei Roland HERNAEZ, founder of our beautiful discipline, at the age of 89..

You gave your life to the martial arts and more particularly to "Tai Jitsu". I had the good fortune to stand at your side for many years, notably as head of the FFK from 2012 to 2020, president of the EFNTJ from 2011 to 2020 and of the FMNITAI from 2018 to 2021. It was an honor for me to be able to work for the discipline and its national and international development.

So it's with pleasure and pride that I tried to fulfill the missions and challenges you've entrusted to me with, in particular the development of our discipline in Africa, but also in Belgium and Estonia.

I'll always remember a very kind man with a joie de vivre that shone through on the tatami, but above all as a martial arts guide who showed me and so many other practitioners the way.

I'll keep many memories of the times I shared with you, including the various training courses at INSEP, including the one organized for your 80th birthday, and the Temple-sur-Lot summer camps.

I will always remember the many long telephone conversations we had, either to discuss the development of our discipline on a national and international level, or to solve various problems within our school.



I'll also keep in mind the difficult times I've experienced at your side, with the deaths of your two long-standing friends Sensei Raymond JUGEAU and Max LORMETEAU, and that of your wife Christiane, who passed away on November 20, 2019.

On a more personal note, I'll always remember our last exchanges, because even if our paths have diverged in recent years, your wisdom, Japan, Africa and a mutual respect that has never wavered have brought us back together. One of our last discussions at the beginning of the year, on my return from Benin, gave me the opportunity to talk to you about the work in progress and my plans for the development of the discipline at national and international levels. On that occasion, but as you already knew, I reminded you that I had always respected you and that I will continue to do so, remaining faithful to your teaching while reflecting on some developments for the future of our discipline. You already knew this and you understood it.

Sensei, I'd like to thank you sincerely for everything you gave me, both on martial and human terms, and for the trust you always placed in me.

You have been and always will be a guide for me and for many other practitioners.

I send my deepest condolences to your family and loved ones and to your entire martial family.

Sensei rest in peace and may the earth be light to you.

**Laurent LARIVIERE**