

Ladies and gentlemen, dear students and friends,

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Roland Hernaez Sensei, who passed away at the age of 89 on May 1, 2024.



A true Budōka at heart, he discovered Judō in 1949 at the age of 15, a discipline he has taught until his retirement. He participated in the introduction of Karate, Aikidō, Shorinji Kempo and Tai-Jitsu in France, leaving a lasting impact on multiple generations of martial arts practitioners.

As the distinguished founder of the Tai-Jitsu / Nihon Tai-Jitsu method and the leading figure of the school since 1972, his passing leaves an immense void in the martial arts community and among all those who had the privilege, even just once, of crossing paths with him during a seminar. Roland Hernaez Sensei dedicated his life to studying, developing, and imparting the fundamental principles and philosophical values of Budō while inspiring his students to aim for new heights in their practice.

He continued teaching until the very end. And in recent times, as soon as he stepped onto the tatami, forgetting fatigue and illness, he rejuvenated and seemed 20 years younger, as during his last seminar in Casablanca last November, where he conducted classes throughout the two days to the astonishment of the organizers, who had planned only two short interventions to spare him!

His spirit will live on through the teachers he trained and supported with kindness until the end of his life, his writings, his technical videos, and all the memories he left in our hearts. We can only commit to perpetuating his legacy through the actions of the EFNTJ, which he initially created under the name of the French Federation of Tai-Jitsu in 1972, the French Karate Federation with whom he signed the agreement protocol in 1977, and the FMNITAI, the world federation he founded in 1983 initially under the name of FITJ for the international development of Nihon Tai-Jitsu.

Today, as we mourn his loss, we sincerely thank him for the legacy he leaves us and also for appointing technical experts at national and international levels to help us continue the development of Nihon Tai-Jitsu.

We express our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all those who had the chance to know him. May his soul rest in peace, and may his legacy continue to inspire and guide future generations on the path of Budō.