

## Murder induced deliriously by a “folie à deux”

DOI: 10.46932/sfjdv2n2-191

Received in: March 1st, 2021

Accepted in: May 30th, 2021

**Dr. Bernat-Noël Tiffon Nonis**

Universitat Abad Oliba –CEU. Calle de Bellesguard, no30. 08022 Barcelona (Spain).

E-mail: btiffonn@uao.es

### ABSTRACT

The case of a murder perpetrated by a 2 subjects is described from the harmful influence of a "Folie à deux" of base and psychotic nature. The concepts of psychosis and "folie à deux" are reviewed in context of induced murder.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

At the end of the 19th century, Lasagne and Falret (1877) described the psychopathological phenomenon known as "Folie à deux". Before them, authors like Baillanger and De Saulle had already developed the first descriptions of this same mental phenomenon.

According to Lasagne and Falret, in the "Folie à deux", the patient with a psychotic disorder manifests his delusional disorder and, adopting an active role, imposes it on a (passive) subject belonging to his most immediate social circle. For the phenomenon of “Folie à deux” to materialize, both the active subject (with a delusional disorder) and the passive subject (without a delusional disorder) must remain isolated for a long time from any external influence, a circumstance that encourages both members to share emotions and feelings (such as fears, needs, or frights). Likewise, the delusional thinking content must be contextualized within the limits of what is possible, with enough coherence to be acceptable. Although this phenomenon does not exclude the male sex, it tends to be more frequent in the female population. And, from the psychotherapeutic point of view and as an interventionist methodology, the separation of the two subjects is the usual procedure, in most cases being the remission of the delusional symptoms in the passive subject (Ariño and Fernandez, 2012).

In subsequent years, four subtypes of the general syndrome were established (Ariño & Fernandez, 2012):

1. *Folie imposée*: The primary subject transfers the delusions to the secondary, a passive and less intelligent element. The delusions of the receiver disappear after the separation.
2. *Folie simultanéé*: Delusions occur simultaneously, but independently in both people who live together, both predisposed to suffer from a psychotic illness. In the absence of a primary subject, separation by itself would not improve the picture for either of them.

3. *Folie communiquée*: the receiver develops psychotic symptoms after a variable period and these symptoms end up having their own evolution. The separation does not influence the content of the chart.
4. *Folie induite* (a variant of the previous one): A subject who is already delirious enriches his delusions with those of another patient, while both are in intimate contact.

In the present case, it is about an 81-year-old man, suffering from chronic Delusional Psychotic Disorder in collusion with his son (also suffering from Paranoid Schizophrenic Disorder) who perpetrated the murder of the neighbor's daughter on the landing of his home with edged weapons (a picket and a serrated knife). The victim was attacked on the landing of the perpetrator's home, riddled with 100 stab wounds throughout the body. The person informed of the expert opinion had previously submitted multiple neighborhood complaints about conflicts related to coexistence in the community.

Figure 1: Weapons used for the perpetration of the crime.



Figure 2: Victim's defense wound.



## 2 RESULTS:

For the development of the study of the personality of the informed person, the following methodology was followed:

- Conducted clinical-expert interview (anamnesis) with the informed with a total investment of approximately 4 hours. in a Penitentiary Center in the province of Barcelona.
- Interview with the son of the informed.
- Updated administration of psychometric tests in order to evaluate his mental and psychopathological state (MINI-MULT and MCMI-3).
- Analysis of the clinical and legal documentation provided.

As a result of the administration of the psychopathological questionnaires and the conducted clinical interview, the results obtained suggest that the informed person (perpetrator of the aggression) presents compatibility with a long-standing chronic Delusional Psychotic Disorder.

Likewise, and as a result of the interview with the son of the informed, the existence of clinical-symptomatological phenomenology compatible with a paranoid-delusional schizophrenic disorder is observed.

## 3 DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS:

1. Although father and son suffered from Psychotic Disorder, the perpetrator was in the middle of an acute psychotic break at the precise moment of committing the crime.
2. The phenomenon of “Folie à deux”, in the present case, fulfilled the criteria established by Regis and Montyel as “Folie Simultaneé”, while delusions occur simultaneously, but independently in

both people who live together, both predisposed to suffer a psychotic illness. As there is no primary subject, the separation by itself would not improve the medical condition of either of the two (Ariño and Fernandez, 2012).

3. According to the Judgment, the informed and subject under study was considered “*criminally responsible for a crime of murder defined above, with the concurrence in his performance of the incomplete exemption of psychic alteration and the mitigating repair of the damage to the penalty of fifteen years of prison with absolute disqualification during the time of the sentence, as well as the security measure of internment in a center appropriate to his mental situation for a period of fifteen years, a measure that will be fulfilled before the sentence*”.

## REFERENCES

- Ariño, C.; Fernandez, E. (2012). "Folie à deux: a propósito de un caso". En "Revista de la Asociación Gallega de Psiquiatría". ISSN-e 1138-5189, Nº 11. 2012. Págs. 151-156.
- Tiffon, B.-N. "*Los Crímenes de Perejil*" (2015). Bosch Editor. Barcelona.
- Tiffon, B.-N. y cols. (2017). "*Atlas de Psicología Forense (Penal)*". J.M. Bosch Editor. Barcelona.
- Tiffon, B.-N. y cols. (2019). "*Atlas Práctico-Criminológico de Psicometría Forense (Volumen I): Asesinatos*". J.M. Bosch Editor. Barcelona.
- Tiffon, B.-N. y cols. (2019). "*Atlas Práctico-Criminológico de Psicometría Forense (Volumen II): Tentativas de Asesinatos*". J.M. Bosch Editor. Barcelona.
- Tiffon, B.-N. (2021). "*Criminal and Forensic Psychology of a Case of Filicide by Decapitation of a Minor*". Journal of Forensic Medicine. ISSN: 2472-1026. Volume 6:3, 2021.
- Tiffon, B.-N. y González-Fernández, J. (2021). "*Amok Syndrome. Qualified perspectives on an aggressive reaction of pathological impulsiveness in the perpetration of a double crime with a firearm*". *Asean Journal of Psychiatry*. Vol. 22(S2), June 2021: 1-5.
- Tiffon BN. "*Atlas of Forensic Criminal Psychology*". Taylor & Francis Group-CRC Press. USA. In press. 2021.