



Louk Hulsman

By **Roberto Bergalli**

On last 30 Januar, when I was informed about the death of our beloved Louk and as I had only contact to his daughter Jehanne, I wrote her some words which I'll transcribe immediately but, at the same time I will try to attach some others ideas and concepts which I'll also include as follows:

I'm really felt very sorry because Louk is passed away. But, I do also believe he has lived his life as he wanted to do it. In any case, he has demonstrated to all of us (those) who has been in touch with him, how beliefs and human feelings must be assumed.

I remember very well the first time I met him and also John Blad, nevertheless I was of course acquainted about his life and some of his surprising positions regarding traditional conceptions on crime and punishment . It was in Sermoneta (LT), Italy more than thirty years ago because he and our also beloved Sandro Baratta (who is also not more with us) have organized (with the helpful support of Emilio García Méndez and Massimo Pavarini) and pushed the first meeting on where the original Common Study Programme on Criminal Justice and Critical Criminology was born. From that particular occasion up to the last year, I met Louk in several others meetings, all over European and Latin-American countries. In every of these encounters, I always saw him showing the same attitude of sympathy and very good humoured in regard of each individual who came to talk or to discuss with him. Very quickly I was able to understand that this particular willingness was not at all superficial and not only a sign of a person well educated and with good manners, but the expression of a special outlook on life. But, also his capacity to attract the attention of huge audiences, in any of the languages in which he was fluent, it was a predominant feature of his personality and therefore it could be very difficult to object or contradict his assessments. In all of these aspects, Louk was absolutely incomparable and worthy of admiration.

From those times I will keep in my memory the enormous Louk's capacity to persuade others with arguments and free discussions without using any kind of others convincement methods than his words. In this sense, his speeches were probably his best instruments to introduce other people inside his own world of ideas. And nothing else than a good idea could stop him in order to redraw his own one and reelaborate it looking at gaining new supporters of his opinion. From this sense he was also a huge democrat.

I do really believe that it is not possible in this moment to draw a much more complete picture of Louk's split personality, but I do not have any doubt that in the next future more than one of his friends,



Homenaje a Louk Hulsman

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students, and colleagues will do it. In this sense, I would want to underline that most of the people who have received an e-mail from British friends, sent just few hours upon Louk's demise, was not involved in those time and activities I briefly described above and consequently they would have good chances in the next future to be more acquainted about Louk's participation on it.

I would also say that as I myself will be not present at the Louk's celebration on coming 8. March and unfortunately will be not able to share this meeting with so many people, I would be very grateful if some of you would be so kind to read this paper. Nevertheless, Iñaki Rivera Beiras who has followed me in the chair because I am not more active in University of Barcelona, has already organized a session dedicated to Louk's memory within the framework of the new *Common Sessions* (without connection to the original CSP, grounded by Louk) which will be held at Barcelona, next April. Therefore, people will have another opportunity to commemorate Louk's life and contributions.

I hope that those who will be at Louk Hulsman's celebration on next 8. March 2009 in Dordrecht could have a real happy commemoration.

To all of them my personal greetings on Louk's remembrance.

Sincerely yours,

Roberto Bergalli, Barcelona 6th March of 2009