

## **Thorsten Becker & Ulla Fröhling**

Definition of '*Ritual Violence*'

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## **Definition of 'Ritual Violence'**

Ritual Violence is a severe form of abuse of adults, adolescents and children. It is intended to traumatize the victims.

Ritual Violence consists of physical, sexual and psychological forms of abuse which were planned out and systematically used in ceremonies.

These ceremonies may have an ideological background as well as being staged for the purpose of deception and threat.

During these ceremonies symbols, activities or rituals which have religious, magical or supernatural connotation were used. It is the purpose to confuse, threaten and terrorize the victims as well as indoctrinating them with religious, spiritual or ideological beliefs.

Ritual Violence rarely consists of a single episode; most often these experiences happen over an extended period of time.

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