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ETHNIC VARIATIONS AND AGE EVALUATION OF LIVING CHILDREN, A FORENSIC EXAMINATION

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In July 2012, we were requested by a magistrate to verify the age of a child of African origin (Burundi) adopted by a French family, with for mission: " - say if the date of birth mentioned Devote's birth certificate, on June 5th 2004, is compatible with the physical development of the child, - In defect say if the date of birth mentioned on blood tests realized in Burundi, on January 8th 2003, is compatible with the physical development of the child." If the child were born in 2004, she would be 8 years old at the expertise date; if she were born in January, 2003, she would be 9½ years old.

The comparative study of the degree of maturation of Devote's teeth with the tables of eruption from anglo-saxon studies (Atlas of Schour & Massler, Atlas of Tooth Development and Eruption/ Reproduction de Sakher AlQahtani) and French studies based on a compilation of the existing tables (Telerradiographies Crétot) indicates an age of 11½ years old ! Luckily, the consultation of a child of Congolese origin, born in France upon the arrival of her parents, and 9 years old, allowed to compare both panoramic radiographies : Devote's picture was almost superposable with that of Rozine. It is from this new radiographic element that we concluded that Devote was 9½ years old, and thus that the date of birth to be retained was the one of the blood analysis, January 08th, 2003.

The conclusions of the forensic scientist from atlas of Greulich & Pyle indicated initially an age of 12 years, age that he maintained in spite of our information. This expertise reveals the impossibility to use the existing dental eruption tables for the foreign nationals of the countries of Africa, India and even eastern Europe. We shall express our wish to create atlas of dental arches radiographies according to every country and to make all the member associations of IOFOS participate to a common protocol of edition of a Dental Eruption Atlas by member country.

KEYWORDS: Forensic Odontology, Dental mineralization, Age Estimation.

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