

Right-to-die decision splits France

By Henry Samuel *in Paris*

DOCTORS started shutting down the life support yesterday of a Frenchman who has been in a vegetative state for a decade, prompting a right-to-die row that has split his family and France.

The decision has also prompted apparent criticism from the Pope.

The fate of Vincent Lambert, 42, who was left quadriplegic and with irreversible brain damage after a traffic accident in 2008, has pitted his devout Catholic parents against Mr Lambert's wife and five siblings who argue he should be allowed to die.

Doctors started switching off his life support at the Sébastopol Hospital, Reims.

"They are monsters! Monsters!" said his mother Viviane, 73, outside the hospital yesterday. Pope Francis issued veiled criticism, saying: "Let us always safeguard life, God's gift, from its beginning until its natural end. Let us not give in to a throw-away culture."

6102019
21.5.12
Devil's Telegraph