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CRISS and I.A. vs. Simleul Silvaniei city Police, Salaj County

POLICE'S ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ROMA

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"they took me out of my house, shoved me in a car, hit me with the cane, pulled me out of the car and started to hit me. I lost conscience and fell down in their office, but they splashed cold water to recover"

"wait, Sir, don't hit my sister anymore, you'll kill her like a dog; i wouldn't have said anything if I had stolen something, but do you want to kill us as if we were animals?"

CRISS and I.A. vs. Simleul Silvaniei city Police, Salaj County

I. De facto

On 24 May 2000, I.A, domiciled in Pusta Vale locality, Salaj County, was in a carriage on a street in Simleul Silvaniei and he was stopped by the police sub-officer Ioan Santovan for not giving the right of way. The policeman told I.A. to get off the carriage and "see how a policeman beats people" ¹. I.A. refused, thus the policeman approached him and was about to hit I.A. with the cane. The victim says that, at that moment, he told to the police officer „ Sir, did I steal anything, did I kill anybody or did I try to rob you? If I did kill somebody, I let you to cuff me"²; meanwhile the policeman was walking towards him to hit him. Then, the victim jumped over a fence nearby and ran to his house.

Shortly after, in the same day, Ioan Santovan, accompanied by another police officer, Lazar Daniel Eugen, also employee of the Simleul Silvaniei Police³, came to I. A.'s house and "kicked the door, hit my sister (R.D.), slapped me and pushed my sister-in-law so hard that she fell on the ground ..."⁴.

When the victim refused to leave the house, Ioan Santovan used a pepper spray on I.'s face and on another two children, a 2 year-old girl and a 8-year-old boy⁵.

I.A. is taken out of the house, pushed in a car, hit with a cane⁶, and brought to the Simleul Silvaniei Police Precinct where they hit him again, he passes out but they threw cold water on him to regain conscience.

Meanwhile, R.D. came to see her brother. When she entered the room where her brother was, the policeman "shoved the cane to her mouth"⁷.

The acts of violence against I.A. continued for approximately one hour, while the victim was continuously pushed his head against the wall and his sister hit by the same police officers⁸.

At some point, another police officer came into the room and I.A. declared that that policeman said: "Stop! That's it; I know this boy and he hasn't stolen anything; I know his parents too and they do not steal either... why do you beat him? Why do you torture him?" The victim was subsequently released.

The next morning (25.05.2000), the victim went to the commandant of Simleul Silvaniei Police to inform him about the acts of violence against him. The commandant's answer to the victim was: "hey, don't embarrass us"⁹.

¹ Quote from the victim's declaration during the monitoring of the case carried out by Romani CRISS;

² Idem;

³ The victim doesn't know the full name of the police officer;

⁴ Idem 1;

⁵ see I.A. declaration when Romani CRISS documented the case;

⁶ . "...they took me out of my home...shoved me in a car and hit me..." – quote from victim's declaration;

⁷ Idem;

⁸ "They beat me for almost an hour. He grabbed by head and banged it against the wall, then he hit mu sister too" – quote from I.A. declaration;

⁹ quote from victim's declaration;

II. Medical documents issued as result of policemen's abuse

The legal-medical certificate issued on 26.05.2000 by the Salaj County Forensics Laboratory ¹⁰ mentions (in medical terms) that the examination of 26.05.2000 showed a perforation of the tympanum, eye injuries, right arm injuries and face injuries.

The conclusions of the legal-medical certificate are:

- I.A. presents traumatic injuries that might have occurred due to hitting with a blunt object
- The injuries require 13-14 days of medical care;
- The injuries could have been produced on 24.05.2000.

¹⁰ A se vedea in acest sens Certificatul Medico-Legal, nr. 491//a/159 din 26.05.2000;