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CRISS and S.C.D., S.M.D., S.F. vs. Dolhasca locality Police, Suceava County

POLICE'S ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ROMA COMMUNITY

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"...when I exit the store, I saw people running and I heard the vice-mayor yelling: "teach the gypsies a lesson, guys" ...out of fear, I ran to my house. A policeman caught me and blocked me. He grabbed me, punched me twice in the stomach and, after I fell, he kicked me in the head. I started to cry and yelled at Mr. Dan Tudose not to kick me anymore because I had had a head surgery. He swore me and continued to punch and kick me until I passed out."

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I. De facto

On the afternoon of 3 April 2001, the city hall of Dolhasca locality, in collaboration with police force and public guardians organised an action for tracing owners of animals who illegally pasture their flocks. The team formed of police crews, public guardians and the vice-mayor of Dolhasca locality, Ioan Savin, drove in three cars (police's, guardians' and one private property) to Probota village.

Around 18.00 hours, as the persons involved in the incident declare, the three cars pass through Giulia village and, near the Roma community, they stop due to G.M., who was in his cart and who intended to get on the road going to Probota. While being in the crossing, the police stopped him for not-priority and the sergeant D.T., from the local Precinct pulled G. out of the cart and started to hit him in the presence of other people. The fact is confirmed by C.G., D.A. and D.N. who were working at a ditch. G.M. was taken in the police car to be ID-ed and fined. When getting out of the car, the policeman hit him again. Meanwhile, his daughter came (announced by the neighbours that police were beating up her father) and wanted to defend him, but she was also hit, although carrying her 3-year-old daughter in her arms. The first vice-president of Roma Party – Suceava branch, Mr. C.C., declared that vice-mayor of Dolhasca commune was also witness at the events.

After this, the three cars continued their way to Probota, and, after 2 hours and a half, around 22.00 –22.30, the delegation of local authorities comes back, stopping at the place of the incident.

The head of Dolhasca Police Precinct, Verdes Liviu, and vice-mayor Savin Ioan entered in the bar of C.C. to check the legality of the bar's documents. Meanwhile, the rest of policemen and guards which stayed on the street hit the Roma people, adults and children, according to the people's declarations.

C.M., age 25, witnessed the hitting of L.F.: "he was hit by two policemen, one dressed in blue and another in black". M.E. tried to intervene, pretending she was L.'s wife and they stopped. Then policeman Dan Tudose asked L. if he was Gypsy or Romanian. When the answer "Gypsy" was heard, vice-mayor Sabin Ilie (as the victim declared) said: "Teach him a lesson, guys!", then the policeman and a guard punched him and kicked him. C.N., age 21, declared he was hit by a policeman while crossing the street to his father's store.

The children there said they were also hit by the policemen.

S.C.D., age 14, declared that, when he exit a store, saw the fuss and, out of fear, tried to run, but a policeman stopped him. He was punched and kicked, while he was asking the policeman not to hit him anymore, because he suffered a head surgery, as the witnesses declare. As a result of the hitting, the child was hospitalised, requiring 3-5-day medical care, as the Legal-medical certificate 857 on 6 April 2001 issued by Iasi Forensic Institute stipulates. C.I.D., D.A., S.A. and D.V declare they took home the unconscious child.

The testimony of C.C, the vice-president of Roma Party, branch Suceava: after the vice-mayor and the head of the Dolhasca precinct exit the bar, he ensured them protection until entering the car,

because there was created a tense situation between Roma and the law enforcement officials there.

The second day, the children from the Roma community didn't go to school, scared by the incidents occurred the previous night.