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# You Didn't See Anything

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(excerpts)

## 1.

Illegal parking men – we all hate them! What can one do?

Sometimes under-age, but usually with a dark tan complexion, they claim a parking place as if the whole street was their own. They wave their hands, they direct you: “c’mon, just a little bit to the left, it’s ready, leave it like that! Will you give me a penny, lady?” They have different reactions to the ladies who ignore them and refuse to give them money. From comments such as: “why do you park here if you don’t want to pay?!” (stupefaction!) and all the way to threats and swearing. People used to pay them money in order not to find their cars scratched or even worse, with their tires cut and because they got used to this city practice. We even heard lenient opinions such as: “Let’s let them live, at least they don’t steal” and we all know the male specimen who feels flattered when addressed by “Boss / Chief”.

## 2.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, Daniel Dumitrache, 26 years old, died inside Police Station 10 from district 3 in Bucharest. Daniel was an illegal parking man in the Old Centre. When he saw the police patrol car he ran away. This is what caught the police-men's attention. They caught him and took him to the police station with no particular reason at all. Daniel was condemned 4-5 years ago to 1 year of imprisonment for drug consumption and policemen knew his antecedents and his present-day occupation. However, that night they found nothing on him. No syringe, no car mirror, nothing to incriminate him. Daniel Dumitrache, also known as Dinte (Tooth) used to live in a basement with his mother, an old and ill woman. Daniel used to take care of his mother. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March he came out of the police section in a black morgue sack. Decease cause established by INML<sup>1</sup>: spleen rupture. The policeman who had him in custody in the last hour of his life and who admits hitting him with his leg in the chest, in a rejection attempt, was transferred to another police unity and asked to be released<sup>2</sup> from judiciary control in January 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Legal Medicine Alexandru

<sup>2</sup> After the creation of the play – also thanks to the active presence of the authors at the court - finally one of the policemen was sentenced to 7 years in prison.

**3.**

Dani left home at about 7 in the evening. He gave me a bath, fed me, and said he was going out. I told him to get back home soon. He never came back. I woke up with two policemen knocking at my window. (...) asked straight away if my son Dani was dead. They started crying so I could tell immediately. We found out from this friend that they had beaten him a lot. They handcuffed him and this guy known as Moldoveanu, hit him hard both with fists and feet (...) then electro-shocked him. When he stopped moving, they untied him and took him out in the street. When they were dragging my son in the street like a dog, the witness took the opportunity and ran away from the police station. Now the Police are after him, too but that guy is hiding, he's afraid they'll kill him too. That guy saw everything. He saw my son dying in terrible agony!

*Song: Stop Stop Hitting Me Boss!*

I'm just a hunting memory/ Now I'm on the other side,

I'm just a ghost/ and I want to let everybody know/ my story/the way was meant to be / I want the whole Romania to find out!

Forgive me mother, it was not my intention / I didn't know, I had no idea

How I was going to end,

I didn't know how to fight / to listen to your advice I should have!

All I wanted was to forget

All I wanted was to escape / I didn't know what to do

And what I put myself into

Stop hitting me boss / Your fist is heavy/ Boss stop hitting me!

Street was my school / I was just the pray

The enemy: the police guard

Street was my school / I was just the pray

The end: a black bag and a stretcher

It's too late for me / a file number I stay

A date on a calendar – 2014

4.03 – unpleasant situations / recorded on the street

Nothing clear!

Stop hitting me boss / Your fist is heavy/ Boss stop hitting me!

I'm just a shadow now / I used to be a man of flash and bones/ but this didn't matter!

An angry cop / Who hit and hit and hit and hit!

From victim into accused they transformed me / his colleagues forgot what happened

Or maybe they dreamed!

4.

*TESTIMONY: B., Daniel Dumitrache Cousin. November 2014.*

I spoiled him all the time and I guess I'm the only one in the family who spoiled him. I dressed him, cooked him a meal when he came, I went with him, bought him a Romanian National Football team sports suit, I gave him some snickers, clothes, some sweaters... We're about 23 cousins in the family, but he was the one I loved the most. And I used to help him, you know, take this, take that. He used to come to me. When I was in Germany for work, I used to send him stuff. Once I sent him a bag full of all the possible sweets in Germany: peanuts, chewing gum, everything, a big bag. When he grew up, he always used to say: "hey cousin, do you remember? that big bag, all those sweets, and clothes" ... I always helped him. So, I was the only one who... We grew up together, we both had no siblings... Also, his mother lived for so many years with my mother. Years, years, years, imagine!

He, Dani, witnessed another boy that was beaten by the police, they used electric shocks on that boy! And he was witness to that boy! That guy said, "You have seen the way they electrocuted me, you come and tell!" And he said: sure man, of course I will! Because he had a good heart! He was not backing out, for example, if you were walkin' with him on the street and let's say, God forbid, somebody punched you in the face, he would've stand up for you! So, you are in the street, you're brothers or you're nothing! He was very helpful!

(...)

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5.

*DEPOSITION: Bondoc Lucian, Police Agent, Station 10 Police. October 2014.*

**Judge:** Let's start over from the moment you noticed the victim in the street. Why did you follow him?

**Bondoc:** Because he ran away.

**Judge:** Since when do we have to follow any person that runs in the street?

**Bondoc:** When the police come, this is the procedure, you have to catch him. Why would he run? The other ones said, why did he run? not to mention he had some files on the role.

**Judge:** Was the victim aggressive towards you at any time given?

**Bondoc:** No.

(...)

**Bondoc:** Further I found out from my colleague that Dinti jumped on him, while we were there in the yard, and he protected himself by hitting him with his leg.

**Judge:** Just a hit with the leg?

**Bondoc:** Yes.

**Judge:** We have here your declaration, stated on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March in which you declare "my colleague told me he kicked him and slapped him twice"

**Bondoc:** I didn't say such a thing.

(...)

**Judge:** And where are the slaps?

**Judge:** So, if it's not true how do you explain it is written here?

**Bondoc:** I didn't write it.

**Judge:** You've told me you didn't write it. So, Miss Prosecutor recorded the declaration and after she recorded, she said to herself: c'mon, I shall also write here two slaps, it does well, isn't it?

**Bondoc:** I don't know... they were walking in between offices and speaking but I don't know what they were speaking about.